



Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-88-042

Thursday

3 March 1988

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Japan

Government Said To Recognize Noriega Regime
*OW031245 Tokyo KYODO in English 1224 GMT
3 Mar 88*

[Text] Tokyo, March 3 KYODO—Japan plans to recognize the new Panamanian government of Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega who ousted President Eric Arturo Delvalle last week, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Thursday.

The official, who asked not to be named, said Noriega took power legally under the Constitution and not through a coup.

He said the new government also has the country under its control.

Fifty-two of the 76 countries represented in Panama failed to send their ambassadors to an opening ceremony of the National Assembly held Tuesday.

They included the United States who supports the former president.

The Japanese charge d'affaires was present at the ceremony.

USSR's Gerasimov Discusses Relations
*OW270117 Tokyo NHK General Television Network
in Japanese 1215 GMT 26 Feb 88*

[Gennadiy Gerasimov, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Department, interview with newscaster Taro Kimura at NHK studio in Tokyo; from the "News Center 9" program; date not given; interview conducted in English with Japanese subtitles—recorded]

[Text] [Interview is introduced with film clips of Gerasimov at Washington news conference following the U.S.-USSR summit and of Gerasimov reading a poem about USSR-U.S. negotiations at an unidentified news conference, cutting to show Gerasimov seated, facing Kimura across a round table]

[Kimura, smiling] So, that's how you look. Oh, welcome to our studio, Mr Gerasimov. Are you a poet? It certainly rhymed. [gestures to studio monitor]

[Gerasimov] Not really, but now and then I do limericks. It's a special type of poetry in English.

[Kimura] Well, you certainly are [an] extraordinary spokesman. I mean, is it yourself or is that environment that produces such [an] extraordinary spokesman?

[Gerasimov] Well, I guess it's together, because I was always the same and I never change. Well, people...[changes thought] It's difficult to change, actually.

[Kimura] I was in Washington last December. The thing which most impressed me was the PR setup of the Soviet Union. I remember when the secretary general just got off the car and shook hands with the people, the girl in the street said: Gee, he is a PR genius. But is he?

[Gerasimov, smiling] Well, I hope so. It helps our cause.

[Kimura] Does this change of attitude reflect the attitude of Soviet external policy?

[Gerasimov] Yes, we've changed a lot. We changed not only the minister: We changed the way we conduct our foreign policy. We have this so-called new political thinking.

[Kimura] What I was trying to ask you is that the way you had expressed yourself might have changed. But, I mean—how do you say—yourself, in establishing the communist world or communism itself, has not changed. Do you see?

[Gerasimov] Yes. No, we believe that it's a bad way to organize the society, but we stress that it's our business, in the sense that it's within our national boundaries. We are building up our society, and that's our business. It's none of our business what other people think about their own ways of development if they prefer their own ways. It's up to them. It means that I try to tell you that we are not expansionists. [chuckles]

[Kimura] I think it was Mr Gromyko who said—who characterized Mr Gorbachev as a person with a charming smile but has very strong teeth. Maybe you are ...

[Gerasimov, interrupting] I am not sure if it was he. I simply don't know. Of course, he is charming. Everybody by now knows this. But, of course, he is a strong leader. So, if you can use this metaphor—you can use it. He must be a strong leader because he has a very great task to do.

[Kimura] What we [are] concerned [about] is where these strong teeth is being...[changes thought] is when it's going to be shown.

[Gerasimov] I still don't like this metaphor bit, because you must be persistent. You must be ready to fight resistance if you are met with resistance. In this sense, you must be a strong leader because there is a certain resistance in certain quarters—so to say—to our changes which is just natural. The old and the new, they always have a little bit of a fight.

[Kimura] What I mean is that we've witnessed that you showed a charming smile in the United States, but viewing from this part of the world, I don't think we've seen that charming smile from your part of the world.

[Gerasimov, interrupting] No, don't think that we have something against Japan. Not at all. We do want to improve relations with the country. That's for sure.

[Kimura] Is it the—the four islands issue—that is preventing the Russians to come more closer [as heard] to Japan?

[Gerasimov] Well, this is—this is something which you are bringing up. But when our leader Gorbachev was in Vladivostok, he made a speech where he stressed that we pay a lot of attention to the Pacific region, including Japan—of course, Japan is our neighbor, and will stay that way. [smiles, chuckles]

[Kimura, interrupting] [Words indistinct].

[Gerasimov] So we want to improve relations. [Kimura] What do you think is the factor that is preventing both countries to come closer [as heard] than we are now?

[Gerasimov] Well, I don't know. One of the factors is that, in my view, your foreign policy—its my view your foreign policy was a little bit—a (?function) from the American foreign policy. [sentence as heard] [Japanese subtitles render this sentence as "Japan is following U.S. diplomatic policy"] Now the Americans are changing their foreign policy radically, and you're a little bit slow...

[Kimura, interrupting] You mean, (?left behind a bit)?

[Gerasimov] The Americans—yes. Two to 3 years ago we had bad relations with the Reagan administration. Now they have dramatically improved. We are preparing Moscow for President Reagan's visit to Moscow. But Japan, in its foreign policy, is still 3 years behind.

[Kimura] But you have the willingness on both sides. I mean, are you saying that...

[Gerasimov, interrupting] Yes. The willingness is also there on the Soviet side to improve relations with Japan. Why not? Of course we are attracted by the possibilities of trade and economic cooperation—why not? Its big potential here.

[Kimura] Well, I have some wire report this morning that came in from Moscow: It says that a high official of the Foreign Ministry of the USSR invited some group of foreign journalists and gave a background briefing in it. [sentence as heard] It says ...

[Gerasimov, interrupting] I know about this. It is a breakfast. It's a new form we began to do, and I was supposed to be there at this breakfast. So I had to make a choice—to come to your country or to be present at that breakfast...

[Kimura, interrupting] And it seems to ...

[Gerasimov, interrupting] And I decided to come to your country.

[Kimura] The briefing expressed very pessimistic—I mean, not pessimistic—I mean a promising view on this U.S. and...[hesitates]

[Gerasimov, interrupting] On the summit.

[Kimura] The Moscow summit.

[Gerasimov] Yes.

[Kimura] Is it correct that you're expecting the summit at the end of May?

[Gerasimov] I think so. I always say the end of May, but maybe the beginning of June. But I tend to think it will be the end of May.

[Kimura] Thank you very much, Mr Gerasimov. I hope you enjoy your stay here in Japan.

Cabinet Secretary Receives Reagan Envoy
OW021155 Tokyo KYODO in English 1036 GMT
2 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 2 KYODO—Chief Cabinet Secretary Keizo Obuchi assured U.S. Presidential Assistant James Kelley on Wednesday that Japan will respond sincerely to American requests to open the Japanese market wider.

Kelley, special assistant to President Ronald Reagan, responded by saying that the Reagan administration will try to persuade Congress to understand Japan's position, government officials said.

Japan and the United States have continued tough talks over U.S. requests that Japan liberalize imports of beef and oranges and also provide American firms with wider access to Japanese public works projects.

Obuchi, who is the chief of staff for Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and also the chief government spokesman, thanked Kelley for the warm hospitality shown to Takeshita when he visited the United States in January, the officials said.

Obuchi also expressed his pleasure at U.S. Ambassador Mike Mansfield's recovery of health and return to Tokyo, they said.

Mansfield, who underwent an operation for a heart ailment at a Washington hospital, flew back to Tokyo from Washington earlier in the day, the officials said.

Kelley arrived in Tokyo on February 29 on a five-day visit after attending South Korean President No Tae-u's inauguration ceremony in Seoul on February 25.

Takeshita also attended the ceremony.

Timetable on Beef, Orange Imports Suggested
OW030559 Tokyo KYODO in English 0539 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 3 KYODO—A top official of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries suggested Thursday that Japan may decide the specific timing for liberalizing its imports of beef and oranges.

The official, who declined to be named, said the government must reach to end the ongoing dispute over opening up the market for imports of the two items.

He also said Agriculture Minister Takashi Sato will visit Washington in the final phase of the bilateral talks, hinting that Japan eventually wants to settle the issue between the two nations in the U.S. capital.

The official's remarks, hinting at Japan's possible import liberalization of the two items for the first time, were apparently made in response to the strong U.S. stance on the issue, ministry sources said.

The United States insists that unless Japan initiates a specific timeframe for opening up the market, the U.S. will file a protest with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) for Japan's alleged violations of the GATT regulations, the sources said.

Iranian Envoy Calls for Condemnation of Iraq
OW030955 Tokyo KYODO in English 0920 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 3 KYODO—Iranian Ambassador [title as received] Seyed Mohammad Hoseyn Adeli called on Japan and other nations Thursday to "condemn and punish" Iraq for its latest attacks on Iranian cities.

Adeli told a press conference the renewed "war of cities" initiated by Iraq February 27 is aimed at undermining the eight-month-old peace-making efforts by the United Nations.

The latest military escalation marked by Iraq's first missile attacks on Tehran was made in "preparation of ground" for another political move in the U.N. by the United States, he said. The U.S. has been unsuccessfully pushing the U.N. Security Council to impose an arms embargo against Iran.

Iraq has repeatedly asked Iran to accept a U.N. resolution on ending the seven-year-old war, but Tehran has demanded that Iraq first be named aggressor in the conflict.

The latest attacks "proves our legitimacy" in branding Iraq as the aggressive party of the war, Adeli told some 20 Japanese and foreign reporters.

"The world should take action now to condemn Iraq and punish Iraq. If Iraq had been punished for starting the war or for deployment of chemical weapons, we believe the new initiatives would not have happened," he said.

Iran will retaliate as long as the attacks continue, and is now preparing for a "new huge offensive," he added.

Adeli said Japan, as a prestigious country in the Middle East and a nation with an independent policy toward Iran, should take a more active part in the peace process.

"Japan should not follow a wait-and-see policy and follow the majority," he said.

The diplomat said the missile attacks were also intended to divert international attention from Palestinian unrest in Israel.

He said he had evidence that Iraq in preparation for the attacks by Wednesday had evacuated half of the population and two-thirds of the "elite" living in Baghdad to outlying holy cities. The population of Baghdad is 3.4 million.

Since Monday the two sides have fired at least 30 missiles at each other, with Iraq launching 22 at Tehran.

After confirming "strong evidence" that the long-range missiles are Soviet made, Adeli said his country will investigate the politics of supplying the weapons to Iraq.

"Political encouragement and support for launching the missiles is as destructive as the missiles," he said.

Takeshita Meets Austrian Delegation
OW021035 Tokyo KYODO in English 0936 GMT
2 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 2 KYODOI—Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and Leopold Gratz, president of the Nationalrat (National Council) of Austria, agreed Wednesday to strengthen relations between the two countries, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Takeshita met a six-member delegation from Austria's Nationalrat, led by Gratz, at the prime minister's official residence for 25 minutes, the official said in a briefing to reporters.

Gratz was quoted as saying Austria is well-known for its culture and history but that one of his duties is to publicize the fact that it is also an advanced industrial country.

Gratz said Austria's business circle is making efforts to advance into the Japanese market.

Takeshita said he was delighted that exchanges at parliamentary member-level between Japan and Austria have been strengthened.

The prime minister also said he is glad that industrial cooperation between the countries has improved, citing the example of a Sony Corp. compact disk factory in Austria which was established last year.

The delegation has been in Japan since Monday on a six-day visit at the invitation of the House of Representatives. The president of the Bundesrat (Federal Council) of Austria will visit Japan in April at the invitation of the House of Councillors.

Trading Firms Moving Into Asian Nations

OW021215 Tokyo KYODO in English 1127 GMT
2 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 2 KYODO—General trading houses are moving into Southeast Asian countries to establish their export bases to overcome declining competitiveness caused by the strong yen.

They are prepared to provide funds and personnel to medium- and small-sized corporations locating their production facilities in the region.

The functions of general trading houses have inevitably changed as a result of the yen's appreciation, an executive of a major trading firm said. They cannot survive if they continue depending on exports from Japan, he said.

The trading companies also are moving to establish export bases in North America and Western Europe to keep pace with internationalization of their business.

Japanese corporate investment in Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia soared in 1987. In Thailand alone, there were 204 cases of such investment, mostly by automobile and electronic firms, up from 54 in 1986.

Six major trading houses such as Mitsubishi Corp., Mitsui and Co. and Marubeni Corp., launched special teams to back up Japanese enterprises advancing in the Southeast Asian market.

Sumitomo Corp. said it is not only providing consulting services to enterprises but also participating in their projects through capital tieups.

The trading firms provide funds to small enterprises who cannot afford to advance overseas with their own capital.

Diet Session Remains Stalled for Second Day

OW030449 Tokyo KYODO in English 0349 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 3 KYODO—Diet business remained stalled for the second straight day Thursday as opposition parties boycotted committee sessions of both houses of the Diet.

The opposition camp is angered because Wednesday the Liberal Democratic Party rejected an opposition-sponsored budget amendment which called for a 2.94 trillion yen tax reduction.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Keizo Obuchi met separately with LDP Secretary General Shintaro Abe and LDP Diet Affairs Committee Chairman Kozo Watanabe to discuss ending the impasse.

In the afternoon, eight top officers from the government and the LDP were to meet, government sources said.

The government and LDP have no intention of accepting the opposition demand for a major tax cut unless a stable source of revenue is secured, the sources said.

The three major opposition parties—the Japan Socialist Party, Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party—have agreed to keep demanding the tax cut, opposition sources said.

Scheduled to be in session were the House of Representatives' committees on local administration; social and labor affairs; communications; science and technology; budget; and on the cabinet.

The House of Councillors was scheduled to hold sessions of committees on education; agriculture, forestry and fisheries; construction; and communications.

At the lower house budget committee, committee Chairman Keiwa Okuda declared the session open, but immediately closed it for a recess.

Mongolia

Railway Protocol Signed With DPRK, PRC, USSR

OW021355 Ulaanbaatar International Service
in English 0910 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Foreign trade delegations of Mongolia, the DPRK, the PRC, and the Soviet Union have met in the Mongolian capital consulting on the volume and range of export, import, and transit goods for railway transportation in 1988. They have signed a relevant protocol. The volume of export goods planned for transportation by Mongolian railways in 1988 will be 15 percent more than in the previous year.

Namsray Leads Delegation to Havana Meeting

OW021345 Ulaanbaatar International Service
in English 0910 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] A meeting of secretaries of communist and workers parties of the socialist countries on international questions has opened in the Cuban capital, Havana. The Mongolian delegation to it is led by Namsray.

The session's agenda includes a broad range of questions on further developing cooperation between the communist and workers parties of the socialist countries.

MPRP Promotes Rural Residential Construction
OW030501 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian
1430 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 2 Mar (MONTSAME)—The MPRP Central Committee has adopted the resolution "On Intensification of Residential Construction in Rural Regions."

(?In view of achieving) the acceleration of residential construction in accordance with the decisions of the 19th MPRP Congress on the improvement of (?cultural services) for rural residents [words indistinct] to begin the implementation in the coordinated [words indistinct] in accordance with the resolution, [words indistinct] for residential construction in rural regions will be established before 1995. A goal has been set to provide residences within 2 years for all agricultural specialists and schoolteachers of the aymags of the Eastern and Gobi regions, as well as for 70 percent of specialists of other aymags.

The resolution sets the main directives for the implementation of rural residential construction tasks, among which there are [word indistinct] multifaceted projects, which take into account the peculiarities of nature and climate and which optimally correspond to the available resources of certain localities, the organization and mobilization of labor by local authorities, the joint efforts of different organizations and departments under a residential (?committee) for the support of labor collectives, and other factors.

The MPRP Central Committee appeals to all party, state, social, and economic organizations to support the initiative of the country's several construction organizations by rendering assistance to the construction.

Snowstorms Plague Livestock Breeders
OW021359 Ulaanbaatar International Service
in English 0910 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Bad weather is the topic of the day in the central and local papers of Mongolia. Heavy snowfalls and snowstorms have struck most part of the Mongolian territory over the past days, creating serious difficulties for the rural workers.

The nasty weather coincided with a very responsible period, that of youngstock delivery, the result of which now depends on the socialist efforts, feelings of high responsibility, and fortitude of the livestock breeders and other agricultural personnel. Party, state, and agricultural organizations and employees at provincial and district centers are working to help herdsmen out on distant pastures.

Meanwhile, according to weather forecasts, cold spells and snowstorms are anticipated in March, although spring began some time back on February 18, according to the lunar calendar.

North Korea

SR-71 'Infiltration' Over Kangryong Peninsula
SK031305 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
1100 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] The U.S. imperialist aggressors infiltrated an SR-71 high-speed, high-altitude reconnaissance plane deep into the sky above waters south of the Kangryong Peninsula in the West Sea of our country at around 1111 today and committed aerial espionage against the northern half of the republic.

Such aerial espionage acts by the U.S. imperialists number no fewer than 10 this year.

Such aerial espionage acts, timed to coincide with the adventurous "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise the U.S. imperialists are conducting, while introducing numerous forces of aggression into South Korea, clearly show how frantically the rascals are kicking up maneuvers to provoke a new war, while further aggravating the situation on the Korean peninsula.

Daily Denounces No Tae-u's 1 March Speech
SK030642 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
0007 GMT 3 March 88

[NODONG SINMUN 3 March commentary: "Absurd and Senseless Gibberish of National Traitor"]

[Text] At a gathering to mark the 1 March Independence Day, traitor No Tae-u gave a so-called commemorative speech. It was only a few days ago that traitor No Tae-u, a stooge of colonial rule, was denounced by the people as a puppet of the United States.

That the stooge of imperialism and colonialism organized an event to mark the struggle of the old patriotic fighters for the nation's liberation and that he made absurd and contradictory remarks while appearing at this gathering are an act that insults the old patriotic fighters of the 1 March independence movement and a shameless and rash act unbecoming his nature.

In his so-called commemorative address that day, traitor No Tae-u babbled about the spirit of the nation, the aims of the old patriotic fighters and so forth. However, he did not speak a word to denounce the aggressive maneuvers of the Japanese imperialists who trampled underfoot the independence of Korea in the past or the colonial rule of the U.S. imperialists who occupied South Korea by means of force and infringed upon the nation's sovereignty.

In other words, the rascal's commemorative speech was composed of empty remarks and florid language designed to embellish and justify the maneuvers he perpetrated to extend his military rule, under the instigation of outside forces.

Traitor No Tae-u also babbled about legitimacy for the sake of the nation. However, his remarks are nothing but a cunning trick designed to legalize his act of usurping power. He won only 30 percent of the votes even after using violence, government power, money and fraudulent means amid the people's unanimous denunciation and rejection and took power amid a terrorism-ridden atmosphere and martial law status. Thus, he is not qualified to talk about the legitimacy of the government.

What traitor No Tae-u particularly stressed that day was that South Korea has entered the era of the people's self-respect. This is indeed a shameless utterance. When traitor No Tae-u was giving the speech at the government-sponsored event, the masses who gathered in the Pagoda Park in downtown Seoul shouted for the overthrow of Japan and the United States that support the dictatorship while denouncing them for subordinating South Korea.

If No Tae-u wanted the people's self-respect, he should have called for the withdrawal of U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea and should have denounced the Japanese militarists' maneuvers of aggression. However, instead of doing so, he lectured on co-existence and co-prosperity with aggressive outside forces.

This means that he will maintain the current colonial rule of the United States and Japan. How can there be the people's self-respect in South Korea, which was reduced to a double colony of the United States and Japan? Traitor No Tae-u's theory on the people's self-respect are empty words and an ugly excuse of the nation-selling traitor and colonial stooge.

The rascal also raved about so-called tasks while talking gibberish about self-respect. The tasks loudly talked about recently by the puppets are a trick to repress resistance to the extension of the military rule and to force the people to obey the new regime. The rascal attempted to realize their impure aim under the signboard of self-respect for security of the pro-U.S. and pro-Japan military dictatorship, which is rejected by the people.

That day, traitor No Tae-u babbled about the Olympics and the reunification issue. However, no matter how loudly he may talk about reunification and so forth while staging the "Team Spirit-88" war exercise for northward aggression against our Republic together with the U.S. imperialists and while taking the attitude of refusing our patriotic proposals for resolving pending questions that include easing tension and cohosting the Olympics in the interest of the nation through such a broad stage of

negotiations as North-South joint conference, which can comprehensively collect the general will of the nation, his remarks are not worth a farthing.

Today traitor No Tae-u is puffed up with power after usurping it. However he can never conceal his true nature as a colonial puppet of the United States and Japan, a most wicked military hooligan and warmonger and a splittist. A great outcry "Let us overthrow No Tae-u!" is raised today in many places in South Korea. Traitor No Tae-u should immediately step down from power according to the demands of the South Korean people.

Japanese Commentator Decries 'Team Spirit'

SK030445 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0425 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 3 (KCNA)—CHOSON SINBO Feb. 27 carried an article by Japanese military commentator Haruo Fujii showing up the nature of the "Team Spirit 88" joint military rehearsal of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique.

He said: The United States increases armament and enlarges the scope of the "Team Spirit" military rehearsal every year.

This military rehearsal is aimed at threatening the opposite side by force of arms.

The United States stages the "Team Spirit 88" joint military rehearsal this year with the mobilization of armed forces, the largest ever in scale. It is clear that through such military rehearsal the military tie-up of the U.S., Japan and South Korea has been strengthened and Japan has been reduced to a logistic base, supply base and transport base for the realization of the Korean strategy of the United States. Noting that the aggressive nature of the "Team Spirit" joint military rehearsal is brought into bolder relief as the years go by, he called for heightening vigilance against it.

Foreign Groups Criticize 'Team Spirit' Exercise

SK021017 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1009 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 2 (KCNA)—Recently foreign political and public circles bitterly denounced the "Team Spirit 88" joint military rehearsal of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique.

The Yemen Council for Peace, Friendship and Solidarity Among Nations said in a statement: Today a grave situation which may lead to the outbreak of another war is prevailing on the Korean peninsula owing to the "Team Spirit 88" joint military exercises of the United States and the South Korean puppets against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The people of Democratic Yemen, together with the world's peace-loving forces, strongly denounce the provocative smear campaign and the aggressive war rehearsal against the DPRK of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique and demand an immediate end to them.

We consider that the reasonable proposals for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country put forward by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea including a proposal to convene a North-South joint conference are the basic way for the solution of the Korean problem and confirm the solidarity of Democratic Yemen with them.

The Bangladesh-Korea Friendship Association pointed in a statement to the aggressive nature of the "Team Spirit 88" joint military exercises and demanded an immediate discontinuation of the adventurous war manoeuvre.

Members of the Parliament of India said in a joint statement that the "Team Spirit" joint military rehearsal was a part of the military strategy for the U.S. imperialists' wild dream for world domination, an extremely adventurous and dangerous war exercise based on their aggressive Korean and Asian strategy and a test nuclear war to attack the DPRK.

The Communist Party of Great Britain stressed in a protest letter that the "Team Spirit" joint military rehearsal is a very dangerous and aggressive military action and the most urgent demand on the Korean peninsula is that the United States and the South Korean authorities discontinue their war rehearsal at once.

U.S. 'Strategy,' 'Smear Campaign' Noted
SK031033 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1020 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 3 (KCNA)—The anti-DPRK smear campaign of the U.S. imperialists is a political, diplomatic and ideological offensive to provoke a war against the North. NODONG SINMUN says this today in a signed article entitled "U.S. imperialists' Korean strategy and anti-DPRK smear campaign".

Noting that the U.S. imperialists instigated the South Korean puppets to fake up the jetliner incident and resort to a shameless and base trick to link the incident with the DPRK in a far-fetched way and shift the responsibility for it onto the DPRK, the paper continues:

The anti-DPRK smear campaign of the U.S. imperialists, part of their Korean strategy at present, is subordinated to its materialisation.

The U.S. imperialists are intensifying counterrevolutionary offensive in two directions—the policy of strength based on military potentials on one hand and political, diplomatic and economic pressure and ideological and

cultural infiltration on the other hand—in a bid to keep hold on South Korea as their colony and military base, a nuclear forward base, and invade the northern half of the Republic with South Korea as a springboard to dominate the whole of Korea.

The policy of strength means the policy of war against the DPRK.

In the U.S. imperialists' Korean strategy their political, diplomatic and economic offensive and ideological and cultural infiltration are closely linked with the policy of war against the North and supplement it.

The anti-DPRK smear campaign on the part of the U.S. imperialists at present contains distorting and speaking ill of the most advanced socialist system and popular policy and peace-loving policy of ours.

With such moves the U.S. imperialists pursue their object to advertise about "threat of attack" and "danger of terrorism" from the North to make public opinion believe it.

By doing so, the U.S. imperialists try to impair the international authority and prestige of our Republic and undermine its influence. And they also intend to infuse into the minds of the South Korean people the consciousness of anti-communist and anti-DPRK confrontation, divert elsewhere the attention of the people who have risen in the struggle for independence against U.S. imperialism and for democracy against fascism and in the struggle for national reunification, and justify their occupation policy and war preparations.

It can not be overlooked that through the anti-DPRK smear campaign the U.S. imperialists attempt to create public opinion in [word indistinct] to invade the North and, in case they ignite a war against the North, to make an excuse for justifying it.

We are sharply watching with heightened vigilance the U.S. imperialists' anti-DPRK smear campaign and war preparations which are getting more vicious and escalating.

Rally Marks Soviet Army, Navy Anniversary
SK030515 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
1500 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] On 22 February a rally was held at the 8 February Cultural Hall in Pyongyang to mark the 70th founding anniversary of the Soviet Army and Naval Fleet. Placed in the rally site where the flags of our country and the Soviet Union were hung were the slogans "We Warmly Congratulate the 70th Anniversary of the Founding of the Soviet Army and Naval Fleet" and "Long Live the Invincible Militant Friendship and Unity Between the Peoples and Armies of the Two Countries of Korea and the Soviet Union."

The rally was attended by KPA General Kim Pong-yul; Colonel General Kim Il-chol; Col Gen Chon Mun-uk; Lieutenant General Yun Chi-ho; O Mun-hwan, vice chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries; Kim Chi-ho, vice minister of common education, who is vice chairman of the Korean-Soviet Friendship Association Central Committee; Hyon Sun-kwon, secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Party Committee; and other functionaries concerned, including the working people in the city and KPA soldiers. Invited to the rally were Gennadiy Bartoshevich, Soviet ambassador to our country, staff members of the Soviet Embassy, and Soviet guests staying in our country.

The rally began with the playing of the national anthems of the Soviet Union and our country.

Gen Kim Pong-yul spoke at the rally.

He said: On the occasion of the 70th founding anniversary of the Soviet Army and Naval Fleet I extend warm congratulations and militant greetings to the fraternal Soviet people and soldiers.

He stated: The Soviet Armed Forces which have traversed a proud militant course full of victory and glory over the past 70 years have remained faithful to the idea of Lenin and the banner of October since the first day of its founding.

Saying that the might of the Soviet Armed Forces was fully demonstrated during World War II, he indicated that the Soviet people and officers and men of the Soviet Army not only annihilated the Hitler fascist clique by displaying mass heroism and peerless courage and, thus, opened the road of creating a new life for the people of many countries in Europe, but also annihilated the Japanese militarists together with the people of Asian countries, including the Korean people, who rose up in the anti-imperialist struggle for national liberation, expedited the deterioration and collapse of imperialism, and, thus, greatly contributed to the cause of liberating mankind.

He said: Today the Soviet Armed Forces have constantly strengthened their might through the struggle to carry out the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and have fully prepared themselves to be the invincible revolutionary armed forces capable of smoothly discharging their mission under whatever circumstances. We warmly congratulate the fraternal Soviet people and soldiers for their successes in the struggle to step up social and economic development of the country and to increase the military might of the country.

He noted: The Soviet party and government, with a view to defending peace and security in Europe and the rest of the world against the imperialists' policy of aggression and their new war provocation maneuvers, have put forward many proposals and initiatives, including a proposal to realize nuclear disarmament, to halt space

militarization, and to completely dismantle nuclear and chemical weapons by the end of this century and a proposal to convert the Asia-Pacific region into a denuclearized zone of peace and cooperation, and have striven hard to carry these proposals into practice.

He then stated that he actively supports these peace-loving and constructive proposals and initiatives put forward by the Soviet Union.

Referring to the development of friendly and cooperative relations between the peoples and armies of the two countries of Korea and the Soviet Union, he declared: Our party, government, people, and army will, in the future, too, as in the past, firmly unite and fight together hand in hand with the party, government, people, and Army of the Soviet Union in the struggle against imperialism and for the victory of the cause of socialism and communism and will make all efforts to further strengthen and develop friendly and cooperative relations between the peoples and armies of the two countries based on proletarian internationalism.

Pavel Doroshenko, acting Soviet military attache spoke next.

Noting that today the Soviet Union splendidly celebrates the 70th founding anniversary of the Soviet Army and Naval Fleet, he stated that the Soviet armed forces have honorably performed their noble mission since the first day of its founding. Noting that in recent years the imperialist forces have constantly maneuvered to turn military and strategic balance in their favor and to gain military superiority over socialism, he condemned that in particular the United States has aggravated international tension in many regions of the world and further increased the arms race.

Noting that the U.S. Administration has intensified the actual moves for the Washington-Tokyo-Seoul military alliance, he stated: To this end, the United States and the South Korean puppets are now staging [as heard] the large-scale "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise by mobilizing more than 200,000 military troops.

Exposing that the United States has paid special attention to the implementation of its star wars plan, he stated that if the U.S. military circles implement their strategic plan, the Soviet Union will take its reliable security measures against it.

Expressing satisfaction over the strengthening and developing of traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and Korea, he stated that the visit to the Soviet Union in 1986 by Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the WPK Central Committee and president of the DPRK, and his talks with Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev prove the

aspiration to further consolidate multilateral cooperation between our two parties and two peoples and to expand joint action in the struggle for peace and international security.

Noting that the Soviet Union fully supports the DPRK's efforts to reunify the country independently and peacefully, to have U.S. forces and nuclear weapons withdrawn from South Korea, and to make the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free peace zone, he said that the Soviet Union expresses solidarity with the new proposals put forth by Comrade Kim Il-song in his new year address this year, regarding them as ones for solid peace and security in Korea.

He said that the Soviet people congratulate the successes attained by the working people in the DPRK in social and economic construction under the leadership of the WPK Central Committee headed by Comrade Kim Il-song.

The rally ended with the singing of the "Internationale."

Following the rally, the KPA ensemble gave a performance.

Daily Decries Anti-Cuba Campaign of U.S.

SK030509 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0445 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] *Pyongyang March 3 (KCNA)*—NODONG SINMUN today denounces the U.S. imperialists' ever undisguised manoeuvres against Cuba.

The counter-revolutionary elements recently held an illegal meeting to hurl abuses and slanders against the Cuban revolution in the Vedado District of Havana city at the instigation of the U.S. imperialists and the U.S. are spreading a whopping lie that Cuba "violates human rights" and is "smuggling drug," the paper says in a signed commentary, and continues:

Such dastardly manoeuvres of the U.S. imperialists are an insult to Cuba, a dignified socialist country, and an escalation of their anti-Cuba moves.

The Korean people bitterly denounce the U.S. imperialists' anti-Cuba plot as a criminal act to impair the authority of Cuba and stifle the Cuban revolution.

The Cuban people under the correct leadership of their supreme leader Comrade Fidel Castro have smashed at every step the U.S. imperialists' anti-Cuba manoeuvres and energetically accelerated the revolution and construction, holding aloft the banner of socialism.

Feeling uneasy about this, the U.S. imperialists are running wild to stifle the Cuban revolution at any cost. They seek to create a confusion and divorce the party from the people internally and impair the image of Cuba and isolate her externally.

With no manoeuvres, however, can the U.S. imperialists bar the victorious advance of the Cuban revolution.

The Cuban people are closely united and rallied around their party headed by Comrade Fidel Castro and filled with a determination to defend the gains of the revolution at the cost of their life.

It is foolish to do something against Cuba standing in the Caribbean Sea as a bulwark of socialism. The Cuban revolution is marching from victory to victory. No force on earth can bar the vigorous advance of the Cuban people toward the victory of the cause of socialism.

The U.S. imperialists must stop at once their anti-Cuba manoeuvres before they meet another disgraceful defeat.

Dailies Mark Liberation Day of Bulgaria

SK030519 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0501 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] *Pyongyang March 3 (KCNA)*—NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON today dedicate articles to the Day of Liberation of Bulgaria from the rule of the Ottoman Empire (March 3, 1878).

The author of NODONG SINMUN says: The Bulgarian people significantly celebrate this day every year. Since the victory of the socialist revolution, Bulgaria has turned into a socialist country with a developed industry and agriculture.

Today the Bulgarian people are striving to carry out the decisions of the 13th party congress under the leadership of the Bulgarian Communist Party and convert the Balkan Peninsula into a zone of peace and cooperation free from nuclear and chemical weapons and safeguard peace and security in Europe and the world.

The Korean people express firm solidarity with their just struggle.

Today the friendly and cooperative relations between Korea and Bulgaria are expanding and developing with each passing day in the spirit agreed upon at the meetings between the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and respected Comrade Todor Zhivkov.

The Korean people hope that the Bulgarian people will make a big stride forward in the building of a developed socialist society by carrying out the present five-year plan and accelerating the scientific and technological revolution.

A signed article of MINJU CHOSON says that the Korean people sincerely wish the Bulgarian people great success in their endeavours to implement the decisions of the 13th Congress of the Bulgarian Communist Party.

Progress of 200-Day Campaign Reported

SK031015 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
1007 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] *Pyongyang March 3 (KCNA)*—The Korean working people have all risen up in the 200-day campaign to register big success in hearty response to the letter and calls of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The campaign is part of the undertaking to make the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (September 9, 1948) a grand festival of victors.

The constructors of the Sunchon Vinalon Complex are now registering a rate of 1.7 times a day as against the daily average of the previous month in terms of the construction assembling value.

They increased the earth work 2 times, the assembling of pre-fab parts 1.8 times, the concrete tamping 1.9 times, the brick-laying 1.6 times and the assembling of the iron-structures 1.5 times.

During the period of the 200-day campaign, the constructors there will create a 100,000-ton production capacity of vinalon.

The February 8 Vinalon Complex these days upped the daily production of carbide to 50 tons, vinalon to 90 tons, vinyl chloride to 15 tons, caustic soda to 80 tons, movilon to 4 tons and sodii carbonate to 35 tons above the daily average before the 200-day campaign started.

The constructors of the Sariwon Potassic Fertilizer Complex moved 370,000 cubic metres of earth in adjusting the sites for revolving furnaces, lime calciners, radiator and raw material storehouse in a short span of time. They also finished the ground-making for main building and equipment including the place for fixing ore liquid, the coal storehouse and radiator.

In particular, they are concentrating efforts on the development of the Chonggye and Chongdan mines to create the speed of 1.5 times in the construction of a crushing and sorting plant, the compressor site and road to a cutting site.

NODONG SINMUN Editorial

SK021040 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
1029 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] *Pyongyang March 2 (KCNA)*—Let all of us turn out vigorously in the 200-day campaign and effect a great upsurge in socialist construction, says NODONG SINMUN today in an editorial.

Noting that the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea called upon the entire party members and other working people to address themselves to the 200-day campaign till the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (September 9, 1948), the editorial says:

To bring forth once again a great upsurge in all fields of socialist construction through the all-people 200-day campaign and thus open up a broad vista for the implementation of the third seven-year plan and celebrate the 40th anniversary of the DPRK founding as a grand festival of victors this year — this is a new militant call of our party today.

Glorifying the 40th anniversary of the DPRK founding with proud successes in socialist construction by dynamically carrying on the 200-day campaign in response to the party's call is a worthwhile struggle to fully display the might of the DPRK which has earned a high fame as a socialist country, independent, self-sufficient and self-reliant in defence, and to add shine to the dignity and honour of our nation.

When we have won a proud victory in the 200-day campaign, the heroic mettle of our people who are staunchly advancing with firm confidence and optimism toward socialism and communism, upholding the banner of the *chuche* idea, under the leadership of the party, will be more highly displayed and the might of the unity and cohesion of our people who are valiantly advancing only along the road indicated by the party, united behind the party and the leader as firm as a rock, be demonstrated more convincingly.

Vast capital construction which is of decisive significance in reaching the major goals of the third seven-year plan and increasing the potential of the socialist independent national economy is the main front in the 200-day campaign. This campaign set it as its content and goal to bring about new revolutionary changes in all sectors of the national economy and in all realms of life of the nation.

Referring in detail to the tasks for successfully carrying out the 200-day campaign, the editorial lays particular stress on the need for the entire party members and other working people to give full play to the indomitable fighting spirit in this general onward march.

Leaders Attend Rally

SK030658 *Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean*
2200 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Mass rallies are being held across the country to vigorously carry out the 200-day campaign by upholding the letter of the WPK Central Committee sent to all party members on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the DPRK founding and the slogans of the WPK Central Committee adopted on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Republic.

The mass rallies were held in South Pyongan, North Pyongan, Chagang, and South Hwanghae provinces on 27 and 28 February.

Reports were made and debates were held at the mass rallies.

Those who made reports and participated in the debates noted that the letter and slogans of the party Central Committee, which fully reflect the heavy mission of our party, the demand of reality in its development, and the aspirations of all party members and working people, are an encouraging banner that vigorously stimulates the entire party and all people in the all-out march to glorify the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Republic as a grand festival of victors.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Party Central Committee, has noted: All party members and working people should regard the leader's teachings and party policy precisely as law and as a supreme order and should thoroughly and unconditionally implement them without any deviation.

Those who made reports and participated in debates said that all of our party members and working people, who have traversed the proud path of victory under the leadership of the great leader and party, are now filled with great gratitude and faith in victory after receiving the militant appeal of the party.

They expressed firm determination to glorify the 200-day campaign with an even greater victory by bringing about new upsurges on all fronts of socialist construction.

The mass rallies adopted letters of pledge to the WPK Central Committee.

The mass rally held in the South Pyongan Province was attended by Comrade So Yun-sok, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, responsible secretary of the South Pyongan Provincial Party Committee, and chairman of the South Pyongan Provincial People's Committee; Kim Ui-sun, chairman of the Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee of the South Pyongan Province; and other responsible functionaries of local party and power organs, administrative and economic organs, and working organizations, along with approximately 50,000 people.

At the mass rally, Comrade So Yun-sok made a report. Then, Pak Yong-si, responsible secretary of the Party Committee of the Chemical Plant Construction Complex; (Yi Chae-tok), vice chairman of the Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee of South Pyongan

Province; (Kim Yong-mu), chairman of the Rural Economy Committee of South Pyongan Province; Kim Song-nam, chairman of the South Pyongan Provincial Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea [LSWYK]; and Hong Tu-yong, dean of the Pyongnam Coal Industry College, participated in debates. [passage omitted]

The mass rally held in North Pyongan Province was attended by Kim Pyong-yul, responsible secretary of the North Pyongan Provincial Party Committee and chairman of the North Pyongan Provincial People's Committee; and responsible functionaries of local party and power organs, administrative and economic organs, and working organizations, along with approximately 50,000 people.

At the rally, Kim Pyong-yul gave a report. Then, Paek Man-su, vice chairman of the Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee of North Pyongan Province; Yi Ha-sop, chairman of the Rural Economy Committee of North Pyongan Province; Hyon Pong-nim, responsible secretary of the Sinuiju Municipal Party Committee and chairman of the Sinuiju Municipal People's Committee; Yi Ui-kyu, responsible secretary of the party committee of the Sinuiju Chemical Fiber Complex; and Chang Il-son, chairman of the North Pyongan Provincial LSWYK Committee, participated in debates. [passage omitted]

The mass rally held in the Chagang province was attended by Yi Pong-kil, responsible secretary of the Chagang provincial Party Committee and chairman of the Chagang Provincial People's Committee; Kim Chung-chon, chairman of the Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee of Chagang Province; and other responsible functionaries of local party and power organs, administrative and economic organs, and working organizations, along with approximately 50,000 people.

At the mass rally, Yi Pong-kil made a report. Then, Pyon Yong-se, Sim Sang-hu, Kim Hui-muk, Ku Ui-chong, and (Pak Chang-il) participated in debates. [passage omitted]

The mass rally held in South Hwanghae Province was attended by Mun Song-sul, responsible secretary of the South Hwanghae Provincial Party Committee and chairman of the South Hwanghae Provincial People's Committee; Kim Chang-sik, chairman of the Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee of South Hwanghae Province; and other responsible functionaries of local party and power organs, administrative and economic organs, and working organizations, along with approximately 50,000 people of the city of Haeju.

At the mass rally, Mun Song-sul gave a report. Then, Han Ik-hyon, chairman of the Rural Economy Committee of South Hwanghae Province; Kim Chong-un, vice chairman of the Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee of South Hwanghae Province; Chang

Won-yol, chief technician of the Mining Industry Management Bureau of South Hwanghae Province; (Choe Pong-man), chairman of the South Hwanghae Provincial LSWYK Committee, and Kim Chun-tae, manager of the Haeju Tractor Accessories Plant, participated in debates. [passage omitted]

Daily on International Gathering for Peace
SK031044 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1028 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 3 (KCNA)—NODONG SIN-MUN today carries a signed article headlined "Grand International Gathering for Anti-Imperialist Solidarity, Peace and Friendship."

The article says:

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught:

"Our young and other people are attaching great importance to the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students which will demonstrate the united strength of the world youth, and are making every effort to ensure that its functions will be excellent."

The 13th festival to be held in Pyongyang will be an event of special significance in demonstrating the united strength of youth and students in the five continents in the struggle against imperialism and colonialism and for the defence of peace, independence and justice strengthening solidarity among them and developing the festival movement onto a new higher stage.

The Pyongyang festival is a grand international gathering for anti-imperialist solidarity, peace and friendship which embodies the noble idea of the festival movement and the unanimous desire of the youth and students in the five continents.

First of all, anti-imperialist solidarity, peace and friendship, the slogan of the Pyongyang festival, fully reflect the aspiration and desire of youth and students of all strata of the world.

The idea of anti-imperialist solidarity, peace and friendship set forth by the 13th festival is a political and ideological background which makes youth and students of all walks of life in the five continents of the world come together to the Pyongyang festival.

The Pyongyang festival will raise it as important content of its functions to put forward the anti-war, anti-nuclear, disarmament and other issues which are most urgent for mankind at the present era, broadly deal with principled matters arising therefrom and their ways and discuss the question of solidarity and cooperation among world youth and students in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, militarism, fascism, Zionism and racism and for peace and independence. And it will share views

on the Non-aligned Movement, the establishment of a new international economic order and the right of young people and other important affairs.

With the 13th festival slated in Pyongyang, the capital of our republic, for the first time in history Asia is going to host the festival.

To hold the 13th festival in Asia where two thirds of youth and students of the world live would help toward rapidly developing the festival of youth and students, preventing the danger of a nuclear war and defending world peace and security.

All functions embodying the idea of anti-imperialist solidarity, peace and friendship will be colorfully organized on a democratic principle during the festival. So, the participants in the festival will get an opportunity to fully express their views on all matters in our era and freely exchange views on many issues and useful experiences with each other.

Comrade Kim Il-song is personally taking care of preparations for the 13th world festival with deep attention.

We will make all our efforts to hold the festival successfully.

South Korea

Improved Relations With Communist States Sought
SK030051 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
3 Mar 88 p 2

["News Analysis" column by staff reporter Kang Song-chu relations will be established with Beijing during his five-year term

at the Foreign Ministry are cautiously optimistic about the prospects for improving relations with China, the Soviet Union and other East-bloc nations.

"It is natural and proper for the President to place emphasis on the uncultivated field of northward policies," said director-general Min Hyong-ki, who supervises Eastern European affairs.

The nation should make good use of the opportunity that may come from the Olympics in Seoul, where all the East-bloc nations, but Albania will be participating, Min said.

Min and other ministry officials, however, warned against any hasty moves or other acts that may bring about unnecessary conflicts with Communist countries.

Such cautious attitude may partly explain the reason why the government did not seek a resolution condemning north Korea at the U.N. Security Council called into an emergency meeting last month over the destruction of a KAL passenger jet over Burma last November.

The proposal of a resolution censuring Pyongyang would have forced China and the Soviet Union, the two closest allies of the north, to exercise their veto power.

The government is said to have decided not to propose a resolution at the Security Council after careful consideration and close consultations with the United States and other friendly countries.

Upon returning from his visit to the council, Foreign Minister Choe Kwang-su described the result of the session as "satisfactory," particularly pointing to the attitude of Communist members.

"I could feel very encouraging signs from the attitude of Communist members," remarked Choe, who addressed the council meeting to condemn the north Korean sabotage of the KAL plane.

Choe said such Communist countries as Yugoslavia took a neutral stance and China and the Soviet Union only "perfunctorially" supported the position of Pyongyang.

He also pointed to the fact that the KAL incident was adopted as an agenda item without a vote despite the presence of the Communist members.

The nation has also seen other promising signs such as the opening of a Hungarian trade office in Seoul slated for this month, the first such move by an Eastern European country.

Yugoslavia, Poland and East Germany are likely candidates to follow the example of Hungary. There is also talk of Korea and China opening trade offices in each other's capital after the Seoul Olympics this fall.

Commercial exchanges between Seoul and Beijing totaled about \$2 billion last year, according to unofficial statistics. They are expected to further increase in the coming years.

President No may have had the prospects in mind when he predicted the ushering-in of an "era of the west coast," which faces China across the West Sea.

Foreign Ministry officials are also talking about an "era of the east coast," hoping that economic exchanges with the Soviet Union will be expanded.

There is even speculation that Korean businesses might be given the chance to participate in Siberian development projects.

"Exchanges between the two countries (Korea and the Soviet Union) have been substantial though most of them have not been official ones," said Min.

The ministry officials generally agree that the Olympic Games this year will help foster a favorable ambience between the host country of Korea and the Communist participants.

"The Seoul Olympics will offer a momentum for the nation to push its northern policy more actively," Minister Choe said.

Improvement of relations with China and the Soviet Union would help foster a climate conducive to realizing the goal of national reunification, he added.

Seoul's improved ties with the two Communist giants may help bring about changes in the strained relationship between south and north Korea.

A recent report by the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security predicted that China and the Soviet Union would virtually pursue a "two-Korea" policy.

Such developments would enhance chances to realize Seoul's proposal for cross-recognition by major powers of south and north Korea, and the two Korea's joint entry into the United Nations as an interim measure until reunification.

Private Trade Ventures Encouraged

SK030127 Seoul YONHAP in English
0101 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Seoul, March 3 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government, in a bid to seek substantive economic cooperation with East bloc communist nations, will encourage private companies to take part in exhibitions to be held this month in the Soviet Union and East Germany, a government source said Thursday.

The government also plans to send a large-scale private-level trade mission to Hungary later in March, the source said.

South Korea has no formal diplomatic relations with communist countries, but many private businesses are trying to develop trade and other economic ties with them. The private firms now conduct indirect trade through Hong Kong and other third nations.

The source said the government will allow private companies to participate in a pharmaceutical exhibition slated for March 11-18 in the Soviet city of Tbilisi, and in a fair to be held March 13-19 in the East German city of Leipzig.

The Korea Chamber of Commerce and industry plans to dispatch a trade mission to Hungary from March 30-April 3 to discuss direct investment and expansion of bilateral trade. A Hungarian trade mission will also visit Seoul at the end of May, the source said.

The source added that the visit to Hungary is likely to pave the way for Korea to send trade missions on a gradual basis to East Germany, Yugoslavia and Poland.

Church Proposes North-South Cooperation Plan
SK030057 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
3 Mar 88 p 9

[Text] The National Council of Churches in Korea has proposed to the South and North Korean governments a plan to enable families separated in two halves to meet and live together in the place of their choice.

In a "Korean Church Declaration on the Reunification of the People and Peace," adopted by the 37th general meeting Monday, the KNCC [Korean National Council of Churches] also recommended that private efforts be made to promote confidence-building measures in the absence of progress on the part of government contacts. The organization, joined by six Christian sects, called for the withdrawal of all nuclear arms which are placed in the Korean peninsula or are aimed at the area.

The armistice agreement should be converted to a peace agreement which includes a non-aggression treaty, and both South and North Korea should revise or stop any diplomatic maneuvering that runs counter to the interests of the Korean people, it said.

The KNCC set five principles that should be respected in the course of achieving national reunification. The five points are self-autonomy, peace, grand union of the people, top priority on humanitarian considerations and measures, and the participation of the entire people in the discussion of reunification steps.

The KNCC has given birth to the declaration after several rounds of consultations among the member churches since 1984.

The declaration will be officially announced in the International Christian Consultation on Justice and Peace in Korea slated for late April in Incheon.

The message will be conveyed to North Korea through the Geneva-based World Council of Churches and other international Christian organizations.

No Meets Informally With Press Corps
SK030143 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
3 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] President No Tae-u said yesterday that he will continue to eliminate authoritarian colors in security and protocol affairs himself.

In an unscheduled lunch with the Chongwadae press corps, President No said that "excessive security precautions" are liable to make him appear an authoritarian personality, thus distancing himself from the people.

It was the first time in many years that the President's informal conversation with the press corps was not placed "off the record."

In the hour-long meeting at a restaurant in the precincts of Chongwadae, No frankly spoke of his week-long life at the Blue House after being inaugurated as the sixth President on Feb. 25.

Also present were Presidential Secretary General Hong Song-chol, senior presidential secretaries, and head of the Presidential Security Force Yi Hyon-u.

Before lunch, President No made a round of the offices of his secretaries for about an hour and encouraged them.

Apparently referring to the formation of a new Cabinet, President No recalled that he faced extreme difficulties in recruiting "new faces" of competence and fresh image.

"What is most important at this time is to foster an atmosphere under which persons of excellent administrative ability can faithfully carry out their duties with resolve," No said.

No said that he is now studying a scheme to make Chongwadae more part of the people's lives. "Chongwadae should not be a 'prison without bars' and the Chief Executive must not be alienated from the people," he went on.

Asked if he has been reading the newspapers closely since his inauguration, No said that he didn't have much time to read the newspapers because of tight official schedules and domestic affairs.

"To be frank with you, I have only read the headlines of major articles on political pages in recent days. Instead, I have asked my wife to earnestly read the newspapers and watch the TV news," No said.

The President said, "My wife told me that my image is in good shape. I think it is totally by virtue of the media's cooperation."

"Household furnishings such as books are in disorder. It will take some time for my family to put things right. It may take several days before I can read the newspapers in a calm and composed manner," No said.

No said that he feels it was very fruitful for him to be able to invite a group of leprosy sufferers as the first group of visitors to Chongwadae on a holiday.

"As I held the hands of the leprosy victims one by one yesterday, they seemed to be moved," President No said.

"During the electioneering period, I met numerous physically-handicapped persons and felt to the marrow their difficult lives. I once met a group of mutes and talked with them through finger language and I later came to hear that most of the 150,000 mutes voted for me," he recalled.

No said that greater efforts must be made to help physically-handicapped persons lead a happy life.

Asked on a plan for the merger of some higher posts at Chongwadae secretariat, No said that he is studying the integration of three offices, in charge of civil petitions, legal affairs, and inspection.

PPD Refuses To Endorse New Prime Minister

SK030105 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
3 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] The National Assembly approved the appointment of Yi Hyon-chaе as prime minister in an extraordinary session which opened yesterday.

Out of 220 lawmakers present, 195 voted for the motion to endorse Yi's appointment while 18 were against it. Six Assemblymen abstained from balloting and one cast an invalid vote.

The opposition Reunification Democratic Party lawmakers joined in the balloting but the Party for Peace and Democracy did not [PPD].

The extraordinary session, which is to run for seven days, was called to act on the revision of the Parliamentary Election Law and other law bills. It is scheduled to hold Standing Committee sessions from March 3 to 5.

The difference between the ruling and the opposition parties over the rearrangement of electoral districts darken the prospect of the special session.

RDP, Hangyoraе Want 2 Kims Out of Leadership

SK030205 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
3 Mar 88 p 1

[Text] The Reunification Democratic Party and the nascent "Hangyoraе" Party yesterday demanded the withdrawal of Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung from the leadership of a new unified party before agreeing to realize a grand reunion among the RDP, the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] and the dissident forces.

Kim Tae-chung indicated yesterday that he is willing to scrap the controversial co-leadership system if it is of hindrance to the opposition-dissident merger.

It is still unclear whether his remark means that he will retreat from an active opposition leadership in the new unified party.

The PPD will hold a meeting of decision-making Executive Council members to show flexibility in its position, designed to ensure-materialization of the opposition merger.

Negotiators of the three parties including the Party for Peace and Democracy met yesterday at a Seoul restaurant to debate the methodology of a grand opposition alliance but they failed to settle the problem concerning the role of the two Kims in the projected party.

Representatives of the RDP and the dissident forces, represented by the Hangyoraе Party, called on the PPD to retract its earlier decision to pursue the joint leadership of the two Kims in the unified party.

The meeting, which lasted for more than two hours, got nowhere and the negotiators agreed to meet again tomorrow after trying to readjust the positions of their respective parties.

As long as Kim Tae-chung seeks to assume leadership, along with Kim Yong-sam, in the new party, there is a strong possibility that the opposition-dissident reunion will not be realized, political observers said. Kim Yong-sam had already clarified that he will take a back seat in the new party.

Although the negotiators could not reach an accord on the roles of the two Kims in the new party, the RDP and the PPD will hold separate special national conventions at their headquarters today to authorize the merger and form 150 representatives each to be dispatched to a joint meeting to declare the inauguration of the new party.

The joint inaugural meeting, originally set for this Saturday, will be postponed until the latter part of next week.

In the meeting yesterday, the RDP negotiators said that "it is meaningless for the opposition-dissident force to realize a grand integration as long as the two Kims maintain active leadership in the new party.

The Hangyoraе Party, which represents the dissident forces, declared that they will not participate in the merger if the two Kims do not withdraw themselves from active opposition leadership. The Hangyoraе Party reiterated the so-called three principles for joining the three-party integration—the withdrawal of the two Kims from leadership, a structural reform and democratic management of the new party.

Earlier in the morning, the RDP held a meeting of lawmakers at the National Assembly and adopted a five-point resolution which calls on the PPD, among others, to discard its co-leadership formula in the unified party.

The RDP lawmakers urged Kim Tae-chung to withdraw from leadership as he had promised last month, while praising their boss Kim Yong-sam for having resigned from the RDP presidency, thus setting the stage for the ultimate opposition integration.

RDP 'Furious' Over PPD Position

SK030237 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
3 Mar 88 p 2

[From the "Out and About" column: "Harsh Criticism"]

[Text] Lawmakers of the RDP harshly criticized the PPD and its president Kim Tae-chung yesterday for a PPD position that Kim should not retire to a back seat after the merger of the two parties.

They were infuriated over the PPD decision the other day that Kim should lead the new party after the merger along with Kim Yong-sam, the resigned RDP president, at least until the upcoming general elections.

Recalling that the PPD president has repeatedly promised to retire after the merger, they attacked the PPD decision and Kim's disavowal as an outright disregard of political ethics.

Some lawmakers who are opposed to a single-member parliamentary election format said the RDP's backing of that format should be reconsidered unless there is an assurance of the two Kim's retirement after the merger.

Floor leader Kim Hyon-kyu, who presided over the lawmakers' meeting, said the opposition could not win the election, even if the RDP and the PPD are merged, unless the two Kims retire out of their responsibility for the defeat in the presidential election.

Internal Controversy Mars Constituency Talks

SK030211 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
3 Mar 88 p 1

[Text] Internal controversy over a small constituency system yesterday turned into open protests against the leaderships of the ruling DJP and the opposition RDP which have separately decided to adopt the formula, ignoring the opinions of incumbent lawmakers.

It has become uncertain as a result whether the rival parties will be able to rewrite the Parliamentary Election Law within the current week-long National Assembly session, which opened yesterday for that purpose.

The mounting objections further raised the possibility the present medium-sized electoral districts will be retained with an increase in the number of lawmakers and a reduction in the largest party's share of the seats allotted by the proportional representation system.

Democratic Justice Party Assemblymen from Seoul, Pusan and Cholla provinces, maintained that they wanted to stick to the original DJP idea of electing one to three parliamentarians from small and medium districts.

Pusan is the safe seat of Kim Yong-sam, former president of the Reunification Democratic Party, and Cholla provinces are the power base of Kim Tae-chung of the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] while Seoul is a perennial opposition stronghold.

DJP members from Chungchongnam-do, where Kim Chong-pil, leader of the New Democratic Republican Party, enjoys strong popularity, are also unhappy about the change of the official party position on to the constituency system issue.

DJP executives postponed a caucus, scheduled for yesterday afternoon, for a day to have time to assuage discontent, while reaffirming that settlement of the revision issue would be achieved by March 8.

In the meantime, the RDP leadership tried in vain to approve the adoption of the small constituency system in a caucus yesterday morning due to rejection by Assemblymen without portfolios.

Even Kim Hyon-kyu, floor leader of the main opposition party with 54 seats, disfavors the single-lawmaker-per-district formula, proposed by the PPD, which Kim Yong-sam has vowed to accept to achieve a merger with the second opposition party.

How to zone electoral districts is the biggest bone of contention in the slack one-and-a-half-month-long negotiation on the amendment to the election law, as it concerns the fate of each legislator.

Albeit popular with the electorate, the small constituency formula, abolished 16 years ago primarily for the benefit of ruling party candidates, is feared by the incumbent Assemblymen with less chance of winning under it.

It portends certain defeat for DJP lawmakers elected from cities and opposition lawmakers from rural communities.

A total of 28 DJP lawmakers from Seoul, Pusan and Chollanam-do, agreed to make joint efforts to check party leaders from accepting the opposition-offered small district overture.

In separate meetings, presided over by municipal and provincial chapter heads, they argued that the original DJP proposal is a "prerequisite to political development on the basis of stability," a catchword of the new administration.

Seoul lawmakers warned that the small constituency system would rekindle regional rivalry between Cholla and Kyongsang people and bring about social confusion.

"Should the DJP suffer a big loss in the capital under the small constituency system, our party will hardly be able to ensure political stability," Rep. Yi Chan-hyok said.

Pusan lawmakers called on the DJP executives to manage to adopt a mixture of small and medium districts "by all means."

Women's Groups Discuss Future Political Role
SK030031 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
3 Mar 88 p 9

[Text] With the general election ahead, women's groups are discussing what their role in the nation's political development should be.

A public discussion organized by the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) Monday was one of such efforts.

The discussion aimed to promote political awareness among the nation's women.

Their discussion was mainly focused on what characteristics candidates for the Assembly should have. The YWCA discussion was titled "Women Voters Want This Type of Lawmaker" with the subtitle "Conditions of National Assemblymen in the Democratic Age."

Journalist Kang In-sop, said that if women voters were well organized, they would play a key role as a pressure group in the upcoming general election. He pointed out that each political party's procedure for nominating candidates should be watched attentively by women so that as many women as possible will be chosen by each party as candidates.

Asserting that women lawmakers generally have a healthier moral sense than their male counterparts, he said, "Accordingly as many women as possible should advance to the National Assembly in the coming democratic age."

Kang Yong-cha, director of the Korean Women's Development Institute, also stressed that all the women voters should cooperate to elect female lawmakers and male lawmakers who have a deep understanding of, and interest in, women's affairs. At present, the National Assembly includes only seven women lawmakers out of 276 members. Women's affairs have not been stressed in the male-dominated Assembly, she said.

Prof. Sim Yong-hui of Hanyang University, presenting her views on the moral disposition a national assemblyman should have, said that lawmakers should understand the people's aspiration toward democracy and have a sense of responsibility as a public servant.

Sexual discrimination should be excluded during all phases of the election, she said.

In the meantime, incumbent woman lawmaker Rep. Han Yang-su of the ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP) said that the number of women lawmakers in the national Assembly should increase. She appealed for women's unity and cooperation so that more women will be elected as representatives. She added that at least one woman lawmaker should be on each of the 13 subcommittees of the Assembly.

Survey of Companies Expected on Labor Talks
SK030147 Seoul YONHAP in English
0126 GMT 3 Mar 88

(9Text) Seoul, March 3 (YONHAP)—About half of the 637 Korean companies surveyed recently said that they would reach smooth agreements on wage adjustments during the labor-management negotiations expected in March and April.

According to the results of a survey released Thursday by the Korea Productivity Center, only 13.3 percent of the respondents said they expect disputes over wage increases during the labor-management talks.

The survey also indicated that of the companies contacted, larger companies appear more likely to suffer from wage disputes. About 21.2 percent of the large companies surveyed said they are concerned about the possible outbreak of labor-management disagreements over wage increases while 9.3 percent of the small- and medium-sized companies showed a similar response.

The survey found that the transportation equipment manufacturing sector was the most likely to be hit by wage disputes with 48.5 percent of the respondents expecting disputes to occur, followed by the lumber industry and manufacturers of wood products with 28.6 percent. Paper, printing and publishing companies were third with 21.4 percent, according to the survey.

As for possible reasons for an outbreak of labor unrest, the survey found that companies first listed the nation's socio-political situation during a transitional period followed by differences over the margin of wage increases.

Of the companies which said they expected labor unrest, 87.2 percent said their companies suffered during the wave of labor disturbances that swept the nation last summer, the survey added.

Burma

U Ne Win Sends Greetings on Peasants Day

*BK021002 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
0630 GMT 2 Mar 88*

[Message from U Ne Win, chairman of the Burma Socialist Program Party, to 1988 Peasants Day mass rallies—read by announcer]

[Text] Esteemed peasantry and working people: On this occasion of Peasants Day, a day that honors the peasantry, I extend joyous greetings to all the peasants and the working people.

The peasants play an important role in Burma which is based on agriculture. As peasants are one of the basic forces, they are marching hand in hand with the workers toward the goal of socialism under the leadership of the Burma Socialist Program Party.

Moreover, peasant organizations at different levels have been formed to enable the peasants to take active part in conforming with the socialist democratic structure. Under these circumstances, it is necessary for the peasant organizations at different levels to make greater efforts to consolidate, as well as to broaden and expand, the organizational setup and sustain the dynamic leadership to enable extensive organizational work among the peasants and to effectively and successfully perform the socialist construction work.

In the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma, the agricultural sector is the main economic sector for ensuring sufficient supply of food for domestic consumption, for making available industrial raw materials, and for promoting exports. To increase the value of the gross domestic product and services to bring about development rates according to the targets set and to increase per capita income and the rate of consumption, the peasants and the peasants organizations at different levels must continue to work toward bringing about the development of agriculture according to the targets of the economic plan.

Because the success of the economic plan is closely linked to agricultural production work, the peasants, who are the principal productive force of the agricultural sector, must do their utmost to develop agricultural production work in which they are engaged.

At a time when the entire people, including peasants and workers, are carrying out national construction tasks in unity and cooperation, the destructive elements are carrying out efforts to harm and obstruct the former's endeavor.

The People's Defense Forces and the people are jointly crushing the destructive elements who are disturbing and endangering the peace and tranquillity, as well as the development process of the state. Only when the country

is free of destructive elements and only when peace and tranquillity prevail, will it be possible to serve the interests of the entire mass of people, including the peasants. Therefore, I urge the peasants to take part, hand in hand with the People's Defense Forces, in the task of annihilating the destructive elements.

In conclusion, I would like to emphatically urge all the peasantry to take an active part, hand in hand with the people, in striving to achieve the political objectives: to consolidate and extend the organizational setup and to maintain the dynamic leadership of the peasants organizations at different levels, to have peasants carry out agricultural production work vigorously for the successful implementation of the economic plan of the state, and to have peasants constantly join hands with the People's Defense Forces to ensure peace and tranquillity in the country.

Maldives Trade Minister Arrives in Rangoon

*BK021530 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 2 Mar 88*

[Text] Mr Ilyas Ibrahim, minister of trade and industry of the Maldives, and his delegation arrived in Rangoon by air at 1415.

The visiting minister and his delegation were welcomed at Rangoon airport by U Khin Maung Gyi, minister of trade; U Yan Naung Soe, deputy minister of trade; U Tin Aung Tun, director general of the Department of Trade; and responsible officials.

The visiting minister is accompanied by his two-member delegation.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Exports to United States Show Increase

*BK020803 Kuala Lumpur International Service
in English 0600 GMT 2 Mar 88*

[Text] Malaysian exporters have made increased utilization of the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences, GSP, to gain a bigger share of the American market. According to figures released by the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Malaysia exported 421 million ringgit worth of goods to the U.S. under the GSP for the first 6 months of 1987 against only 288 million ringgit in 1984.

Industrial officials said the exclusion of Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and South Korea will further boost Malaysia's exports to the U.S., but they also warned against any complacency. According to the ministry, higher exports were largely seen in palm oil exports, cocoa, machinery, and plywood.

The February ECONOMIC BULLETIN released by the United States Information Service says Malaysia has been pretty successful in commodities and materials exporting. It also said the U.S. is not planning to remove any other ASEAN members, besides Singapore, from the GSP.

Commentary Hails Mahathir Visit to Burma
*BK021506 Kuala Lumpur International Service
in English 0800 GMT 1 Mar 88*

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Malaysian prime minister's official visit to Burma last week marked the start of a new era in Malaysian-Burmese relations. Reading through the reports and the press releases on the meetings Dr Mahathir Mohamed had with his hosts, one feels that there was a realistic attitude towards current economic issues. For example, Malaysia offered training facilities in certain fields in which Malaysia already had some experience. Through the Malaysian technical aid and cooperation plan, many officials from other Asian, African, and Pacific states come to this country for in-service courses in various aspects of public administration. Soon we hope to welcome Burmese Government officials at these courses.

The two countries have agreed in principle to commence air services between Rangoon, the Burmese capital, and Penang, the north Malaysian city. This decision has immense significance for commerce and tourism of both countries. Historically, there used to be a lot of trading and mercantile contacts between Burma and Penang. Many will welcome the steady increase in trade and there are also excellent prospects for investment and joint venture projects. There is much keenness among Penang business people to develop new enterprises with their Burmese counterparts.

Another important decision relates to the purchase of more Burmese rice by Malaysia and of more Malaysian palm oil by Burma. In this connection, the Malaysian delegation has conveyed its willingness to accept new ways of payment in this particular trade transaction. This decision underscores Malaysia's policy of adapting its mode of dealing with the needs of the trading partner. In recent years for example, Malaysia has concluded counter trade deals.

Both Malaysia and Burma are deeply concerned about the drug trafficking problem. This topic figured prominently in the talks between the two national delegations. The close proximity of the two countries to the notorious Golden Triangle region is sufficient cause for tackling the drug menace with determination and with a willingness to learn from each other's experience.

In foreign affairs, Malaysia and Burma have much in common. To begin with, they are active members of the Nonaligned Movement. The meeting of the South Commission this week in Kuala Lumpur will further strengthen the cordial ties and understanding on world issues. Malaysia has officially made known to Burma its quest for a seat in the UN Security Council for the 1989-90 term. The Malaysian community is confident that it will receive support from Burma. For its part, Malaysia has promised to understandingly consider the Burmese request for support for a seat in the Economic and Social Council of the UN. This kind of mutual give and take is a feature of Malaysia's relations with Burma and other countries.

The success of Dr Mahathir's trip to Burma, is an example of his abiding interest in perpetuating, preserving, and enhancing cordial ties with all countries. The Malaysian community welcomes the understanding reached with Burma.

Official on Arrests of Communist Terrorists
*BK030705 Kuala Lumpur International Service
in English 0600 GMT 3 Mar 88*

[Text] A ranking communist terrorist and several of his followers have been arrested by the police. The arrests were made in Kuala Kubu Baru, Selangor, 2 days ago.

The deputy minister of home affairs, Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayub, disclosed this to newsmen after opening a dadah or drug awareness course in Alor Setar, Kedah. He said there were only about 52 communist terrorists left in the country. He also said the communists had tried to infiltrate the social movement in the country by exploiting local sentiments. On after-care for dadah addicts, Datuk Megat said most of the state governments had agreed to provide lands for the setting up of after-care and rehabilitation centers.

Report on UMNO Being Declared Illegal
*BK030418 (Clandestine) Voice of Malayan Democracy
in Malay 1215 GMT 2 Mar 88*

["News report" : "UMNO Was Declared an Illegal Society; Clinging to Power, Mahathir Established a New UMNO"]

[Text] On 4 February, the Kuala Lumpur High Court delivered a verdict that shocked the political arena, namely, it declared the UMNO [United Malays National Organization] was an illegal society when the party held its general assembly on 24 April last year, thereby making the general assembly and elections null and void.

In passing judgment, Judge Datuk Harun Hashim pointed out that there were 30 unregistered UMNO branches that took part in the elections. Section 12.3 of the Societies Act states that no registered society shall establish a branch without prior approval of the Registrar of Societies. Therefore, in the eyes of the law,

UMNO has been an illegal society since April 1987. Under such circumstances, the judge was unable to grant the request filed by a group of 11 UMNO members to declare UMNO elections null and void because the 11 plaintiffs already got what they wanted.

The legal action against UMNO and its subsequent verdict indeed shocked the people in the country, including UMNO's 1.4 million members, and overseas political circles and media. They were surprised to see how far the UMNO had gone in ignoring the country's laws on party registration. The party of the country's prime minister being declared illegal by the court is indeed unprecedented in the world.

After the court's judgment, Tunku Abdul Rahman, the country's first prime minister and an UMNO veteran, reacted publicly on 5 February. He said that Mahathir had thrown the country into chaos and was becoming more and more dictatorial. He said Mahathir had also turned UMNO into an illegal society. He described the event as tragic and disgraceful.

Encik Param Cumaraswamy, president of the Malaysian Bar Council, also voiced his views, noting that the court's judgment had effectively declared UMNO's election last year null and void. In the eyes of the law, the UMNO can carry out no more activities because it is an illegal society. He also said that the court's judgment was not the outcome of a past conflict between the government and the judiciary, but a result of the existing legal provisions that clearly identified the offense, and any judge would pass a similar judgment.

People still remember the time when Datuk Harun Hashim called for a revision of the system to appoint senators. He voiced this proposal when he addressed a gathering aimed at reviewing the Constitution. At that time, Mahathir quickly attacked the judiciary and accused them of interfering in the executive branch's affairs. He alleged that the judges had openly discussed political matters. Mahathir even admonished the judges that they should have acted in accordance with the law and that the law provisions should not be interpreted by a few judges only. But now, Judge Datuk Harun has simply acted in accordance with the law and declared UMNO illegal. This made Mahathir tongue-tied and he dared not appeal to the court's judgment.

After the court's judgment, a power struggle between two groups within UMNO ensued. Both tried to establish a new party to replace the banned UMNO. One group was led by two former prime ministers, namely Tunku Abdul Rahman and Datuk Hussein Onn, who submitted an application to the Registrar of Societies to establish a new party called UMNO Malaysia. Former Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah obviously supported this group.

The other group led by Mahathir managed to contrive a ruse to thwart Tunku Abdul Rahman's application and then established a new party called UMNO-New. Former Prime Minister Musa Hitam began to distance himself from Razaleigh Hamzah and declared his support for Mahathir by saying he would apply for UMNO-New membership.

Meanwhile, Mahathir also planned to stage a farcical show where all Barisan Nasional coalition party leaders, members of Parliament, members of the regional legislative assembly, and Barisan Nasional chief ministers would gather at the Parliament building to present a letter of loyalty, read a statement of loyalty, and sing a song of loyalty to Mahathir. The action was aimed at showing that Mahathir's government was not affected by the court's judgment, thereby retaining the confidence of his followers.

The following is a short account of what had happened within the 18 days from 4 to 21 February:

On 4 February, the UMNO, established in 1946, was declared an illegal society by the Kuala Lumpur High Court. Mahathir said the court's judgment did not affect his position as prime minister. His deputy, Ghafar Baba, opined the UMNO still existed before the Registrar of Societies canceled its registration.

On 5 February, Lee Lam Thye, acting secretary general of the Democratic Action Party urged Mahathir and all UMNO cabinet ministers to resign. Mahathir also stressed that the prime minister would step down only if he were ousted by a vote of no confidence in Parliament.

On 8 February, during his 85th birthday celebrations, Tunku Abdul Rahman addressed the visitors who came to congratulate him on his birthday at his residence in Penang and urged Mahathir to step down. Tunku Abdul Rahman also announced that together with Hussein Onn, he would make efforts to revive the banned UMNO.

The lawyer who represents Tunku Abdul Rahman said that the two former prime ministers had submitted an application to establish a new party called UMNO Malaysia and hoped to enlist support from former UMNO members and members of Parliament.

On 9 February, UMNO Secretary General Sanusi Junid, on Mahathir's instructions, submitted an application to the Registrar of Societies to establish a new party called UMNO 88.

On 10 February, the Registrar of Societies rejected the two applications to establish the UMNO Malaysia and UMNO 88 on grounds that the registration of UMNO had not been canceled.

On 12 February, the registration of UMNO was canceled.

On 13 February, Mahathir, Ghafar Baba, Daim Zainuddin, and Information Minister Mohamed Rahmat submitted an application to the Registrar of Societies to register the UMNO-New. On the same day, the Registrar of Societies approved their application.

On 14 February, the farcical show of loyalty to Mahathir was held at the Parliament building. On the occasion, Mahathir announced that necessary measures would be taken in Parliament. He said there was no man-made law which could not be changed.

On 16 February, Ling Liong Sik, president of the Malaysian Chinese Association, was installed as acting chairman of Barisan Nasional and assumed the post for 3 minutes only. The Barisan Nasional then held its Supreme Council meeting, which accepted UMNO-New as its member. After that, the session immediately appointed Mahathir back as Barisan Nasional chairman. Mahathir said that all members of the banned UMNO had to reregister their membership to the UMNO-New and the requirement was loyalty to the party, in other words, to Mahathir himself.

On 17 February, Chandra Muzaffar, president of Aliran [Independent Reform Movement] said in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation that the political situation in Malaysia was unhealthy. He pointed out that Prime Minister Mahathir dared not call for the convening of Parliament to discuss the political crisis and instead abused the media to publicize people's support for him.

On 21 February, the Mahathir-led Supreme Council of UMNO-New held its first meeting and decided on the establishment of its branches in each state. After the meeting, Mahathir admitted that Tunku Abdul Rahman's supporters had not stopped their campaigns even though their application to the Registrar of Societies had been rejected. In the meantime, the group of 11 plaintiffs, who filed a suit on UMNO's elections last year, had also filed an appeal to the Supreme Court over the High Court's rejection of their suit.

What is the next development of this crisis? Will Mahathir be able to shirk his responsibility over the split of UMNO, which led to its being declared illegal? What will happen when the Parliament convenes its sessions again? How will be solved the problem of the UMNO's enormous property, estimated at nearly 4 billion ringgit? All these issues continue to attract public attention.

Cambodia

Chea Soth Tells Visiting Envoys of Progress *BK030720 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 3 Mar 88*

[Text] At the Office of the Council of Ministers in the afternoon of 2 March, Comrade Chea Soth, Political Bureau member of the KPRP Central Committee and

vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, received and had cordial talks with various diplomatic missions accredited to the SRV, including those of the Soviet Union, Poland, the GDR, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Mongolia, and Nicaragua.

Comrade Tep Hen, PRK ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the SRV, and the diplomatic corps from various friendly countries accredited to Cambodia were also present.

Speaking during this get-together, Comrade Chea Soth stressed the all-round development of the Cambodian revolution over the past 9 years, especially in 1988. In 1988, the key year of the 5-year plan to implement the fifth party congress, the Cambodian people enjoyed great successes in their cause to defend the fatherland and protect the revolutionary gains. Comrade Chea Soth went on to say that because of this immense victory, the Cambodian revolution has enlarged the revolutionary struggle on the political and diplomatic front since mid-1987. At the same time, the national reconciliation policy and five-point political solution have reflected our party and state's sense of responsibility vis-a-vis the sacred aspiration of our compatriots and the destiny of the fatherland, in accordance with the powerfully developing trend of dialogue and reconciliation in every continent and in Southeast Asia.

In reply, the visiting diplomatic corps praised the all-round progress in Cambodia, and expressed strong support for the national reconciliation policy of the PRK and the proposal for a political solution to the Cambodian problem, especially the recent meetings in Paris between Comrade Council of Ministers Chairman Hun Sen and Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, which are significant to the interests not only of the Cambodian people but also of the people of Southeast Asia and the world as a whole. They affirmed that they would appeal earnestly to all countries in the world to continue expanding their support for Cambodia's national reconciliation policy that responds to the demands of the Cambodian people of all strata, both at home and abroad, and conforms with the common trend of the world toward settling all disputes through negotiations.

Attack on Vietnamese 7701st Command Reported *BK030120 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 2 Mar 88*

[From the "Daily Report From Various Battlefields" feature]

[Excerpt] Kompong Thom battlefield: On the night of 27 February, our National Army launched a commando attack on the Vietnamese enemy's 7701st Command located at Vat Krachap in Kompong Thom town. We killed two Vietnamese enemy soldiers, including a captain, and wounded three others. We destroyed a B-40, a B-41, two RPD's, three AK's, two army shelters, and

some materiel. After our attack, the situation in Kompong Thom town was one of confusion; the Vietnamese panicked and fired artillery shells indiscriminately throughout the night.

The next morning, 28 February, the Vietnamese enemy gathered its forces to go after us; a number of Vietnamese soldiers were killed or wounded by our mines. [passage omitted]

'Roundup' of February Battle Results Given

BK030158 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 2 Mar 88

["Roundup" of Results from Battlefields Throughout the Country in February]

[Text] 1. Koh Kong-Kompong Som battlefield: 23 Vietnamese enemy soldiers were killed and 26 others wounded; total: 49 casualties. Vietnamese administrative networks in 17 villages, 3 communes, and a township were attacked and dismantled.

2. Leach-Peam Ta battlefield: 104 killed and 85 wounded; total: 189 casualties. Administrative networks in a village attacked and dismantled.

3. Samlot battlefield: 41 killed and 57 wounded; total: 98 casualties. Administrative networks in four villages and a commune attacked and dismantled.

4. Pailin battlefield: 293 killed and 253 wounded; total: 546 casualties. Administrative networks in five villages and a commune attacked and dismantled.

5. South Sisophon battlefield: 107 killed and 113 wounded; total: 220 casualties. Administrative networks in a commune attacked and dismantled.

6. North Sisophon battlefield: 262 killed and 279 wounded; total: 541 casualties. Administrative networks in 39 villages and a commune attacked and dismantled.

7. Battlefield around Battambang town: 84 killed and 91 wounded; total: 175 casualties. Administrative networks in 32 villages attacked and dismantled.

8. Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey battlefield: 146 killed and 156 wounded; total: 302 casualties. Administrative networks in 51 villages attacked and dismantled.

9. Preah Vihear battlefield: 27 killed and 12 wounded; total: 39 casualties.

10. Kompong Thom battlefield: 41 killed and 49 wounded; total: 90 casualties. Administrative networks in 60 villages and 4 communes attacked and dismantled.

11. Kompong Cham battlefield: 17 killed and 32 wounded; total: 49 casualties. Administrative networks in 58 villages and 4 communes attacked and dismantled.

12. Moug-Pursat battlefield: 68 killed and 70 wounded; total: 138 casualties. Administrative networks in 47 villages, a commune, and a township attacked and dismantled.

13. Kompong Chnang battlefield: 50 killed and 61 wounded; total: 111 casualties. Administrative networks in 45 villages and 3 communes attacked and dismantled.

14. North Phnom Penh battlefield: 42 killed and 57 wounded; total: 99 casualties. Administrative networks in 35 villages attacked and dismantled.

15. Northwest Phnom Penh battlefield: 20 killed and 14 wounded; total: 34 casualties. Administrative networks in 28 villages attacked and dismantled.

16. East Phnom Penh battlefield: 15 killed and 10 wounded; total: 25 casualties. Administrative networks in 15 villages, 3 communes, and a township attacked and dismantled.

17. Northeast-eastern battlefield: 58 killed and 65 wounded; total: 123 casualties. Administrative networks in 52 villages, 8 communes, and a township attacked and dismantled.

18. Southwest battlefield: 78 killed and 88 wounded; total: 166 casualties. Administrative networks in 107 villages attacked and dismantled.

In sum, we killed 1,476 Vietnamese enemy soldiers and wounded 1,518 others for a total of 2,994 casualties. We attacked and dismantled Vietnamese administrative networks in 596 villages, 30 communes, and 4 townships.

Briefs

Equipment From GDR News Agency

Phnom Penh, 3 Mar (SPK)—ADN, the GDR news agency, has given some equipment to SPK. The equipment was presented by Michael Schultze, third secretary of the GDR Embassy in Phnom Penh, to Ti Saran, SPK deputy director general, on Wednesday morning in Phnom Penh. The gift consists of an EKD 315 receiver, 615 kg of telex paper, and other printing materiel. Ti Saran thanked ADN sincerely for this aid. [Text] *[Phnom Penh SPK in French 0418 GMT 3 Mar 88 BK]*

Vietnamese, Lao Aid to Province

Phnom Penh, 3 Mar (SPK)—Last year, Vietnam's Phu Khanh Province sent specialists to assist Stung Treng Province in planning, education, intensive rice cultivation, forest exploitation, and the campaign against malaria, and also offered medicine worth nearly 45,000 dong. Phu Khanh's communications service helped restore 18,850 square meters of road in the Stung Treng provincial seat. A gift of a secondary boarding school was also built by 80 Vietnamese workers for Stung Treng Province. For its part, the Lao province of Champassak last year offered 154 cases of medicine worth nearly 4 million kip to Stung Treng provincial health service while the trade exchanges between the two provinces reached 367,600 riel. [Summary] *[Phnom Penh SPK in French 0415 GMT 3 Ma 88 BK]*

Indonesia

President Suharto Addresses General Assembly

*BK021044 Jakarta TVRI Television Network
in Indonesian 0224 GMT 1 Mar 88*

[President Suharto's 1 March address to general assembly of the People's Consultative Assembly in Jakarta—live]

[Excerpts] I want to begin this speech in the name of God. Honorable chairman, vice chairman, and members of the People's Consultative Assembly [MPR], invited guests, and everyone present: May peace be upon you.

The MPR begins its general assembly today. In accordance with the 1945 Constitution and national tradition, which we have developed together, the MPR General Assembly will decree broad guidelines for state policy, elect a president and vice president, and decide on other major issues.

This plenary session marks the end of a 5-year presidential term, as stipulated by our country's Constitution. At the same time, it marks the beginning of a new 5-year term.

Since establishment of the new order, we have been practicing a good and beneficial way of administering the country; this includes an accountability report on presidential duties and achievements at the end of the 5-year presidential term. I am happy history has given me the opportunity to become one of those who has contributed to the administration of the nation. Today, in my capacity as president of the Republic of Indonesia, I stand before the honorable MPR plenary session to give an account of my duties, which will end the minute a new president is chosen for the next 5 years.

Constitutionally, the president, as a mandate holder of the MPR, has to shoulder all of the political duties and has to give an accountability report of his achievements to the MPR. Based on the historical development and growth of our nation and country, the accountability report is a review of our nation's progress in the past 5 years. [passage omitted]

In a world full of upheavals and severe economic challenges, Indonesia is able to enjoy tranquillity and constant stability while society is undergoing very dynamic changes. [passage omitted] Progress in various sectors in the midst of severe challenges can be attributed to the improvement of government agencies; the ability of government personnel to carry out developmental tasks has clearly increased. [passage omitted]

Fellow countrymen, in the field of politics, we adopted a very important resolution at the MPR General Assembly 5 years ago in 1983. At that time, we reaffirmed our decision to adopt Pancasila as the sole national ideology. [passage omitted]

In developing Pancasila democracy, we need differences of opinion and two-way communications in our constant consultations, which are aimed at reaching a consensus on the best possible directions and means for achieving our common ideals. This spirit is embodied in the law on political parties and the functional group; the law on general elections; the law on the composition and function of the MPR, the House of Representatives, and the regional legislative assemblies; and the law on referendum, as well as the law on mass organizations. These laws clearly constitute a basic legal framework that enhances the country's political foundation, which we have achieved in the current Fourth Repelita [5-year development plan] and will consolidate in the coming Fifth Repelita.

The 1987 general elections took place in a peaceful atmosphere, full of enthusiasm and dynamism. This demonstrated that the adoption of Pancasila as the sole ideology did not reduce the citizenry's political rights, nor did it reduce the participation of political organizations—political parties and functional group—in their efforts to win the people's greatest possible confidence in compliance with the regulation in force.

The adoption of Pancasila as the sole ideology has not removed diversity of opinion from Indonesians. On the contrary, sociopolitical forces are able to develop unique approaches to the solution of problems that we face as a nation. Such increasingly mature and responsible political developments were also the outcome of the P-4 courses [Pancasila upgrading courses], which have been carried out continuously since 1978.

The adoption of Pancasila as the sole ideology does not in the least minimize our faith in our respective religious beliefs. This reflects a progressive step that we have attained through a continuous and full sense of responsibility in giving substance to our belief that a Pancasila state is not a secular state, but one based on a belief in God. [passage omitted]

Honorable speaker and assembly members, as I said earlier, we are grateful for the fact that, despite the chaotic world situation and heavy economic challenges, we can still enjoy peace and stability while our own society is experiencing very dynamic changes.

Such dynamic stability can be attributed to our development, in the widest sense, in the fields of defense and security. Since the proclamation of our independence, we have had a wealth of experience in coping with various threats, disturbances, and dangers that threatened our country's survival. We have successfully overcome them. However, we must not be complacent and must remain vigilant toward such threats, disturbances, dangers, and other sources of unrest.

For the past 5 years, we have intensified our national vigilance and readiness, which is based on each citizen's awareness of national defense, national unity and integrity, unity between the Indonesian Armed Forces [ABRI] and the people, and the ABRI's own ability as the main force in the country's defenses.

We will continue to build ABRI into a modern, mighty force—a small but effective ABRI, which is within the means of the country's budget. The ABRI has consolidated its position by carrying out a reorganization of its personnel and a modernization of its equipment. It has also improved its professional ability by strengthening the true fighting spirit enshrined in the Sapta Marga [seven military pledges].

We will continue to develop our defense and security in the framework of national resilience, which is a wider and more dynamic concept than ordinary defense. Security is indeed a component of national resilience.

By practicing the Sapta Marga, the ABRI has played its best role as a defensive, sociopolitical force in the framework of cultivating Pancasila democracy and ensuring national stability. The ABRI has carried out its dual function with the greatest sense of responsibility so that it can help encourage the growth of our society.

The ABRI has shown its ability to fulfill its historic mission as a stabilizing and dynamizing force, as well as a force that continues to safeguard and rejuvenate Pancasila democracy. The ABRI's dual function is obviously not aimed at making a lot of ABRI personnel assume civilian posts. As a sociopolitical force, the ABRI, along with other political forces, will instead fight to uphold and promote Pancasila democracy.

The ABRI has become the country's force capable of comprehensively and successfully carrying out its regeneration process. The ABRI's independence generation has groomed the succeeding generation to continue and to fulfill the historic mission of safeguarding national ideals. In the past 5 years, the ABRI has strengthened the basic framework of defense and security, as well as political development, as an absolute prerequisite in ensuring the success of national development in general.

Our national stability has supported the implementation of our foreign policy. The broad outline of state policy stipulates that the implementation of our independent and active foreign policy should always benefit our national interests. We do not give a narrow meaning to the national interests. We never set our national interests against international interests. We continue to do our best to carry out the message enshrined in the preamble of our Constitution, which says that we must join efforts to maintain a world order based on freedom, everlasting peace, and social justice. This means that we must understand our national interests in its widest sense.

Our sense of responsibility to the survival of mankind has encouraged us to constantly call on the superpower countries to end their arms race, which is not only useless, but may also destroy humanity and civilization.

We are also concerned about the current Iran-Iraq war and have tried at every opportunity to stop it. We continue to support the Palestinian people's struggle for freedom in their own land because freedom is every nation's right and constitutes human dignity. We have condemned South Africa, which has stubbornly pursued its apartheid policy. The rights of the people of Afghanistan, Cambodia, and other countries must be respected through the withdrawal of all foreign forces from their territories.

By playing an active role in ASEAN, the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, and the Organization of Islamic Conference, we have tried to contribute toward the realization of a new world order in the political, economic, and cultural fields, which ensures justice and equality.

We have developed an attitude of mutual respect for other countries' sovereignty. We do not interfere in other countries' internal affairs and instead develop cooperation that leads to mutual benefit for the sake of everlasting peace and progress.

Despite economic constraints, we have shown our political will to develop cooperation among developing countries in the form of technical assistance to a number of countries. We have paid special attention to the improvement of such relations with our neighbors so we can enjoy a more peaceful atmosphere in this region than in the past. Such an atmosphere is highly conducive to the implementation of our national development, which requires stability of the region. At the same time, such peaceful atmosphere constitutes our contribution to the realization of a peaceful world.

ASEAN has entered a new stage of development with the issuance of the Manila Declaration in the Third ASEAN Summit in Manila last December. The ASEAN summit issued a guideline on the new initiative and direction of the regional grouping aimed at accelerating political, economic, and sociocultural cooperation to enable us to realize a closer friendship in our efforts to increase social welfare, regional resilience, and security in Southeast Asia.

We have also developed deeper mutual understanding and friendship with our neighbors in Southwest Pacific. As an example, I can cite the signing of the Treaty of Mutual Respect, Cooperation, and Friendship between Papua New Guinea and Indonesia in 1986.

Our relations with Western countries have also proceeded smoothly, which lead to more mutual understanding and cooperation. Our relations with the Eastern

countries have also made significant progress because the two sides understand the importance of cooperation based on mutual benefit and noninterference in others' internal affairs.

As for relations with the PRC in particular, I can stress once again that a normalization of diplomatic relations will still depend on the PRC's confirmation that it will not interfere in other countries' internal affairs, especially Indonesia's, by supporting communist remnants in such countries.

As for bilateral trade between the two countries' private sector, we notice that direct trade relations have been established.

Honorable assembly, let me present my accountability report on the implementation of economic development. When the Fourth Repelita was formulated to implement the 1983 broad outline of state policy, we were fully aware of the fact that the Fourth Repelita years would be full of economic challenges. In the 4th year of the Third Repelita—the 1982-83 fiscal year—we began to see a decrease in our major source of development funds and foreign currency, namely oil and gas revenues. These challenges came to our notice in the form of a drastic decline in global economic activities, which resulted in the longest world economic recession in the past 50 years.

It later turned out that the global economic recovery took place very slowly and on a small scale. Even though a number of industrialized countries showed a high economic growth, they were unable to become the driving force for an economic recovery. Therefore, armed with our development trilogy and through a realistic implementation of our eight equitable distribution schemes, we targeted our economic growth in the Fourth Repelita at approximately 5 percent. This target was lower than that of the Third Repelita. At the same time, in line with the broad outline of state policy, we made efforts to achieve a balanced economic structure. For this reason, the industrial sector and other sectors were encouraged to accelerate their growth while the agricultural sector was allowed to continue its normal growth.

However, the price of oil dropped drastically in 1986—an event that had a great impact on the Indonesian economy. Even though the price of oil improved after the drastic plunge, the current price of oil is much lower than in 1985. The exchange rate of a number of foreign currencies also fluctuated unexpectedly. The Japanese yen, for instance, has almost doubled against the U.S. dollar in only 2 years.

Our economic difficulties, which were also shared by other developing countries, became more serious when a number of industrialized countries decided to adopt tougher protectionist policies while the prices of our

primary commodities dropped. In short, we found ourselves at the mercy of an uncertain global economic situation in the past 5 years.

However, we have done our best to cope with these serious challenges and have found some solutions. At international forums, together with other developing countries, we have continued to urge industrialized countries to show their sense of responsibility and to improve the global economy for the benefit and justice of all. We have also made new moves and adjustments in the domestic economy to cope with the new realities. The moves are aimed at laying down a stronger and wider foundation with which to accelerate our economic development. They consist of the rescheduling of a number of major projects, banking deregulation, a new taxation system, rupiah devaluation, a review of development priorities, and deregulation and debureaucratization in trade, flow of goods, and capital investment.

I must inform the assembly that the deregulation and debureaucratization policy does not at all mean we have ushered in liberalism. We have implemented this policy to stimulate creativity and to encourage all available forces in our society to share and expand common responsibility for development. [passage omitted]

In recent years, the obligation to repay foreign loans is getting heavier due to the appreciation of several foreign currencies, especially the Japanese yen against U.S. dollar. However, we are able to cope with this problem and continue to fulfil this obligation in time. This is made possible by the increase of state revenues from domestic sources and nonoil exports.

The foreign debt has indeed reduced our ability to provide funds for domestic development. However, by practicing austerity measures in all sectors, including a salary freeze of civil servants and Armed Forces personnel, we are able to put aside part of domestic revenues as a reserve fund to finance urgent development projects, such as presidential projects.

We are grateful for the fact that we can continue our development program during the 4th and 5th years of the 5-Year Development Plan because of the soft loans extended by some friendly countries. This shows the confidence of those countries on the future of our economy. In addition, we have called on the Japanese Government, which has enormous economic power, to help reduce the burden of our loan repayment. In this connection, the Japanese prime minister and other leaders have shown their understanding and willingness to alleviate such burden. In this connection, I want to stress that we never think of rescheduling our foreign loan payment.

Despite the difficult economic situation, we are full of hope and continue to work for the creation of a basic economic framework and for the achievement of our goals in the Fourth Repelita. Even though the situation is

very difficult and we cannot fully achieve our economic goals, we notice that our economy has indeed grown during the Fourth Repelita. Our economic growth rate is estimated to be an average of 3.8 percent annually. This economic growth rate is higher than our population growth rate of about 2.1 percent. Our economic growth rate is no lower than that of other developing countries. Even though the growth rate is not as high as our earlier target in the Fourth Repelita, it has led to a balanced economic structure—a structure based on a stronger industrial sector supported by a stronger agricultural sector. [passage omitted]

Our success in agricultural intensification programs and agricultural programs outside Java as well as our transmigration programs have made us self-sufficient in rice since 1984. We used to be the world's biggest rice importer. Other agricultural products have also shown heartening prospects because they generally surpass their targets. These products include cash crops, plantations, livestock, and fishery. Our success in increasing agricultural products in general and our food self-sufficiency in particular constitute an important factor in our economic resilience. Our success in agriculture also constitutes a force that can cushion the impact of the uncertain and detrimental global economic situation. It has also increased farmers' incomes and improved the welfare of millions of their families, which form the majority of our society. [passage omitted]

Fellow countrymen: In line with the broad outline of state policy and our determination to carry out the development trilogy, we have directed all activities in the Fourth Repelita toward improving the standards of living, intelligence, and welfare for all people. In line with this, I want to discuss things related to the basic needs of human beings—food, clothes, health, education, housing, and jobs.

As I said earlier, we have achieved initial success in rice self-sufficiency, which means we have overcome the problem of food. We have also become self-sufficient in clothes and have even exported ready-made garments.

The improvement in people's welfare is reflected in our public health, namely in the declining infant mortality rate, longer life expectancies, taller and more intelligent children, and growing public awareness of hygiene and environmental preservation. The improvement is brought about by progress in the health services, such as better medical supplies and knowledge, better nutrition, and a higher income for the people.

The improved health and welfare services are related to the progress made in implementing family planning programs, which have reduced our birthrate.

We have also made rapid progress in education. Since 1984, we have provided an education for all primary school-age children through the presidential school

project. Our junior high, senior high, vocational, and polytechnic schools and universities have also increased their number of students. [passage omitted]

In our efforts to disseminate development projects in rural areas and to widen job opportunities, open new production centers, stimulate rural economy, and distribute the population density, we have continued our transmigration program and have made significant progress in this area. However, we still face future challenges to this program to allow the transmigration program to be carried out more smoothly.

We are aware that our development will take a long time and must continue from one generation to the next. Our generation will not bequeath a dry, arid land to the next generation. Therefore, our development activities are directed at preserving our natural resources and environment. [passage omitted]

Fellow countrymen, we have completed the last 5-year period. In the First and Second Repelita we managed to score initial successes in development, but from the Fourth Repelita onward, we found ourselves in a difficult period of economic struggle. In coping with this difficult economic challenge, we strengthened our determination, racked our brains, and did our best. With cool heads, we have always sought a solution to the current predicament.

In our great struggle to cope with challenges, we have enriched ourselves—as a society, a nation, and a country—with mental fortitude, spiritual determination, knowledge, capability, and skills in various fields. All of these will be useful in coping with future challenges. There is indeed no journey's end for a fighting nation. Our society has wider horizons, stronger work ethics, better efficiency, and more self-confidence. We have achieved rapid modernization, changes, and adjustments in all areas, enabling us to overcome all problems and obstacles. Confidence in our ability convinced me to say several years ago that all the trials and tribulations would in the end appear to be blessings in disguise.

Fellow countrymen, 5 years ago I was highly honored to be appointed as president and mandate holder by the assembly. I was fully aware of the fact that the noble task entrusted to me was a difficult one. In the Fourth Repelita the Indonesian people have been determined to lay the groundwork for development, which will be further solidified in the Fifth Repelita and enable us to attain a take-off level in the Sixth Repelita. We must translate this determination into concrete achievements, despite heavy economic challenges.

I accepted the task with the conviction that I would stand alone. I believed that all of the Indonesian people who entrusted me with the task would give me their full support. Now, 5 years later, I realize that not all of our aspirations have been fulfilled. There have been several disappointments.

With reluctance, we have made adjustments in accordance with the scope of our challenges and our future hopes. We have had to make sacrifices and for that I want to extend my deep respect and gratitude for the sacrifices all of us have made for the continuity of our development and a better future.

Because we are living in the Pancasila democracy, I have listened to all views, criticisms, and suggestions from various quarters in the past 5 years of my presidential term. I see them as well-meaning criticisms that will improve my policies. I accept them with an open heart. For all the criticisms, suggestions, support, cooperation, trust, sacrifice, and goodwill, on the last days of my presidential term, allow me, on my behalf and on behalf of the vice president, to extend our deepest gratitude to the people.

The Constitution stipulates that the president is responsible to the assembly for his actions. He is the assembly's mandate holder. His position is not equal to the assembly, but under the assembly.

Therefore, with a sense of relief and gratitude to Almighty God, I now end my accountability report. When I was appointed by the assembly 5 years ago I was sworn in as president in accordance with my religious belief in the omniscient God, who, among other things, knows I will uphold the Constitution. For this reason, in presenting this accountability report, I solemnly declare that I am under the assessment of the assembly, which holds the highest power in this Republic. May the Almighty God bless all of us always. Thank you. May peace be upon you.

Five Factions Support Suharto for President
BK020701 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian
0600 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Five parliamentary factions have called on retired General Suharto to accept nomination as a presidential candidate. The five factions who met with Suharto at Jakarta's Merdeka Palace this morning are the Functional Group faction, the Armed Forces faction, the Regional Messengers faction, the United Development faction, and the Indonesian Democratic Party faction.

On the second day session of the general assembly today, the post of vice president has become a hot issue. As was decided by the Functional Group faction, Sudharmono, chairman of the Functional Group, was nominated for vice president. [passage omitted]

Earlier, on 29 February, the United Development faction nominated Jaelani Naro, who is the United Development Party chairman and deputy house speaker, for vice president. [passage omitted]

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 0616 GMT in an item datelined Jakarta reports that President Suharto has accepted the nomination of various factions at the Consultative Assembly as a candidate for the next presidency]

Suharto's Acceptance of Nomination Hailed
BK030220 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian
1200 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Parliamentary factions today called on President Suharto at Jakarta's Merdeka Palace to request the retired general be nominated as presidential candidate for the 1988-93 term and the president had consented to their request.

According to the procedure, the factions will then present a written memorandum containing the name of the presidential candidate to the chairman of People's Consultative Assembly [MPR], who will verify the candidate's willingness to be nominated. The MPR chairman will also find out if the candidate is willing, if he is elected president, to comply and implement the Broad Outline of State Policy and other resolutions adopted by the MPR. The candidate is also required to be sworn in upon his installation in accordance with his religious beliefs. The MPR chairman will verify all the above details on 8 March in accordance with the 1973 MPR Resolution.

President Suharto's willingness to be nominated for the next presidential term has obviously brought about relief because it is line with the wishes of the people. Opening the general assembly yesterday, MPR Chairman Kharis Suhud said that the MPR had received proposals from various quarters voicing support for the reelection of President Suharto. The proposals have arisen from people's assessment of his successful performance in national development. The president himself admitted that several development goals had not been realized, but that had been beyond his control, namely due to the global economic situation. His open and frank admission shows President Suharto's statesmanship, which is recognized both in the country and abroad. It is normal to have unrealized goals despite various efforts one has exerted. However, what the president has not achieved is relatively smaller than what he has achieved. In other words, he has more success than unrealized goals.

Based on these facts, we can see that there are strong reasons for his nomination for the 1988-93 presidential term, especially in view of future challenges in national development. The impact of the world economic recession is expected to affect the industrialized countries, which means they will adopt more austerity measures. Meanwhile, the challenges in Indonesia will consist

largely of how to provide job opportunities to the unemployed and to boost capital investment aimed at improving the quality of manpower resources, including technical skills, professionalism, and academic skills. All these are necessary to cope with those challenges.

Mokhtar Confirms Tehran Embassy Hit by Missile
BK031050 Jakarta International Service
in English 0800 GMT 88

[Text] Indonesian Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja confirmed last night that the Indonesian Embassy in Tehran was hit by Iraqi missile on Monday. No casualty had been mentioned, but Indonesian Embassy in Canberra, Australia, reported that communication links with the embassy in Tehran were cut off.

Minister Mokhtar said the matter has been reported to President Suharto but his ministry is still collecting data on it.

Laos

Delegation Departs for Bangkok Talks 3 March
BK030538 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0500 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] This morning, the delegation of the LPDR Government led by Brigadier General Thonglai Kommasit left for Bangkok, the Kingdom of Thailand, by a special plane to hold negotiations with the delegation of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand to settle the conflict concerning the borderline in the vicinity of Boten District, Laos' Sayaboury Province, and of Chat Trakan District, Thailand's Phitsanulok Province in accordance with the LPDR Government's 25 January 1988 statement proposing negotiations to settle the said problem through political means; the invitation of the Thai Government contained in the 24 February 1988 message of His Excellency Prem Tinsulanon, prime minister of Thailand, sent to His Excellency Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the LPDR Council of Ministers; and the 26 February 1988 reply message of His Excellency Kaysone Phomvihan to His Excellency Prem Tinsulanon.

The delegation of the Lao Government also includes: Thongloun Sisoulit, deputy minister attached to the office of the Council of Ministers, deputy head; Thongsit Inthaphon, head of the Administrative Affairs Research Department of the Council of Ministers, member; Somchan Thawikham, head of the General Directorate of the Council of Ministers, member; Bounkeut Sangsomsak, deputy head of the International Organizations Department of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, member; and a number of accompanying staff members.

On hand at Wattai Airport to see the delegation off were Khamphai Boupma, first deputy minister for foreign affairs; Major General Osakan Thammatheva, deputy minister of national defense, and head of the LPA General Political Department; and a number of high-level cadres concerned.

Mrs Prathung Rotphom, Thai charge d'affaires to Laos, also bade farewell to the delegation.

Peace Committees Support Thai Border Talks
BK021551 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
1200 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Today, 2 March, the Lao Committee for Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship With Other Countries and Thailand's Committee for Peace and Development Program issued a joint communique saying that the Lao Committee for Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship With Other Countries and Thailand's Committee for Peace and Development Program, sharing the common desire to create peace and maintain long-existing relations, friendship, and brotherhood between the two countries, have been conducting cultural and technical exchanges so as to create and strengthen the atmosphere of friendship and unity and peaceful coexistence.

The conflict which broke out in the vicinity of Thailand's Phitsanulok Province and Laos' Sayaboury Province has caused losses in both the lives and property of the people, particularly those living in that area. The consequent damages clearly testify to the danger of the use of force and the significant value of peace and the path of settling conflicts through peaceful means.

The Lao Committee for Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship With Other Countries and Thailand's Committee for Peace and Development Program have been closely following developments and trying to find a way to expeditiously solve the problem and are extremely pleased to see that the military delegations of the two countries could hold talks and reach an agreement on a cease-fire and disengagement of both countries' troops. They wholeheartedly hail the military leaders of both countries who have unanimously declared that the armed forces of the two countries will not pick up arms against each other again and have pledged to jointly safeguard the Lao-Thai border and turn it into a border of peace. It is a good omen that soldiers, with arms in their hands to accomplish their duty of national defense, care for the tranquility and peace of the people as a whole and turn to negotiations as a fundamental way to settle the conflict in compliance with the aspirations of the Lao and Thai peoples, who want to defend their good-neighborly and brotherly ties, peacefully coexist, and oppose any intention or deed detrimental to the said good-neighborly and brotherly ties.

The Lao Committee for Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship With Other Countries and Thailand's Committee for Peace and Development Program, firmly adhering to

peace and peaceful means, wish to express their support for the negotiations between the two countries and hope the negotiations will proceed with sincerity, honesty, justice, and fairness to the people of the two countries because the outcome of the dialogue will benefit and bring about the well-being of the Lao and Thai people as a whole. In other words, the Lao-Thai border will be a border of peace, friendship, and good-neighborly cooperation. Moreover, it will set a good example of cooperation in settling international conflicts in any other part of the world.

Article on Forthcoming Talks With Bangkok

BK030302 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0000 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Unattributed article: "The Settlement of the Lao-Thai Border Conflict Must Be Based on the Spirit of Equality, Sincerity, Honesty, and Justice and in the Interests of Brotherly Relations"]

[Text] Dear listeners: The LPDR Government's foreign policy is for independence, peace, and friendship. Pursuing this policy, in face of various conflicts occurring in this region and all over the world, the LPDR Government's stand and deeds are always aimed at rendering support to parties aspiring to settle those conflicts through peaceful means. With regard to the Kingdom of Thailand which is a brotherly and neighboring country, the LPDR Government has always adhered to its consistent stand in dealing with that country, that is, to maintain the lasting relations of friendship and legitimate interests of the peoples in both countries and to preserve peace, stability, friendship, and cooperation among the countries in this region. We will try our best to settle conflicts between our two countries through negotiation in accordance with the principles stipulated in the two 1979 joint Lao-Thai communiqués.

This stand of the LPDR Government has been clearly displayed during the flare-ups of various Lao-Thai border conflicts in many areas, especially the one in Na Banoi canton, Boten District, Sayaboury Province, in which the Lao side repeatedly proposed that the problem be settled through peaceful means. Finally, the high-level Lao and Thai military delegations met and consulted with each other to agree on an important agenda that subsequently became the basis for the cease-fire, disengaging the armed forces of the two sides, and setting up a joint military committee to supervise and inspect the cease-fire and the disengagement of forces. The agenda also stipulated that 15 days after the cease-fire went into effect, the Lao and Thai Governments were to hold political talks to settle the problem.

Relying on the good intentions of both the Lao and Thai sides, further promoting the fruits of the consultative negotiation between the high-level Lao and Thai military delegations, and accepting the invitation contained in a

message sent by Prime Minister General Prem Tinsulanon, the LPDR Government has appointed a Lao governmental delegation headed by Brigadier General Thonglai Kommasit to go to Bangkok this morning to hold negotiation with the delegation of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand on the Lao-Thai border problem occurring in the area straddling Boten District, Sayaboury Province, and Chat Trakan District, Phitsanulok Province. With regard to the forthcoming negotiations between the delegation of the LPDR Government and the delegation of the Kingdom of Thailand, Lao and Thai public opinion as well as all justice-loving people throughout the world are pinning high hopes on the performance of the two delegations.

Up to this point, it is necessary to say that to make these negotiations successful, the two sides must be imbued with the spirit of sincerity and equality and must firmly adhere to the mutual interests of the Lao and Thai peoples. At the same time, they must firmly adhere to the truth, justice, and honesty and abide by the 1907 French-Siamese Treaty and related maps. Certainly, if the two sides strictly adhere to the principle of sincerity and the said interests, the settlement of the Lao-Thai border problem will be fruitfully achieved and all obstacles to this settlement will be surmounted.

Lately, ill-intentioned elements in Thailand, including certain aging politicians and military officers, have made comments running counter to the interests of the Lao and Thai peoples and undermining the brotherly relations between Laos and Thailand. For example, they said that Thailand was in a disadvantageous position and that Thailand should send its Armed Forces across the Mekong River to burn down the city of Vientiane and to sing the Lan Xang song in that capital.

In face of such ill-intentioned deeds and utterances, the Lao and Thai peoples must closely unite and denounce them promptly. Only by doing this will the settlement of the Lao-Thai border conflict be successfully achieved to the satisfaction of the Lao and Thai peoples.

The Lao people hope that the LPDR Government delegation headed by Brigadier General Thonglai Kommasit, which is taking with it the Lao Government's goodwill, imbued with a sense of sincerity, equality, and mutual interests of the Lao and Thai peoples in holding talks with the delegation of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand this time, will be accorded reciprocal sincerity by the delegation of the Thai side.

We are convinced that the lasting friendship, peace, and cooperation between the two brotherly countries—Laos and Thailand—will be realized as stated by General Sisavat Keobounphan, chief of the General Staff of the LPA, who said: The Military Supreme Commands of the two countries pledge that the brotherly Lao and Thai peoples will not fight each other again and there will be no more bloodshed between these two brotherly peoples. No one can make the Mekong River run dry nor sever

the Lao-Thai friendship. His Excellency General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, Army commander in chief and acting military supreme commander of the Kingdom of Thailand, said: Every thing has been resolved at all levels with confidence and brotherly love. The relationship of mutual affection has been created forever.

Political Seminar for 60 Diplomats Concludes

*BK021224 Vientiane KPL in English
0909 GMT 2 Mar 88*

[Text] Vientiane, March 2 (KPL)—A week-long political seminar for 60 Lao diplomats ended here on March 2. The meeting was under the chairmanship of Phoun Sipaseut, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the LPRP, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister.

The participants studied, among other things, papers on the world situation, the resolution of the 5th plenum of the party CC (4th congress) with emphasis on the new socio-economic concept of restructuring.

Paper Examines Change in Economic Management

*BK021231 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
1200 GMT 29 Feb 88*

[PASASON 29 February editorial: "Firmly Grasp the Fourth LPRP Congress Guidelines on Modifying Economic Management Mechanisms"]

[Text] Dear listeners: The switch to new mechanisms constitutes the beginning of a brighter, more colorful path in guiding our country toward socialism. This development conforms to the people's aspirations and subjective law. The preservation of old mechanisms, on the contrary, only serves to prolong the state of poverty and backwardness in the country, and to hold the national economic foundations back in a natural subsistence economy stage.

This is the goal we have endeavored to fulfill for some time. Nevertheless, the results of our initial efforts in this direction are still very ineffective. There remains a mixture of old and new mechanisms, and the switch to the new mechanisms seems to be spreading. One of the primary causes of these phenomena stems from the fact that we are not yet able to distinguish between the old and new mechanisms and do not know what we should do to correctly implement the new mechanisms.

The policy of modifying economic management mechanisms along the fundamental direction outlined by the Fourth LPRP Congress is correct. To successfully transform the economic management mechanisms is a very complicated and difficult task. To achieve this requires that comprehensive, profound, and thorough changes be implemented in all spheres of work. This is similar to a new struggle taking place in each person, each grass-roots economic sector, each organization, each service, and each locality. It requires a change both in the perception

of and the performance of work of all strata concerned, ranging from laymen up to leading cadres in all levels. Therefore, we must first profoundly understand what the new mechanisms are like and how much effort we must make to urgently fulfill our fundamental duties to successfully build the new economic management mechanisms.

The fifth resolution adopted by the fourth party Central Committee clearly stipulates that the building of the new mechanisms must be closely linked to our basic requirements. For example, the new mechanisms must reflect both the features of modern science and the characteristics of national traditions. They must be built closely linked to the policy on the new economic structure. The new mechanisms must reflect the fundamental views of the Fourth Party Congress. They will create conditions for us to rapidly introduce technological and scientific developments into production so new techniques can be used as leverage in developing production forces and broadening goods circulation. The new mechanisms place an extensive emphasis on the importance of men, they rely on men, and they serve men's interests.

In the meantime, we must concentrate our efforts on fulfilling all other fundamental, urgent duties. Under our country's present circumstances, we must correctly and completely utilize commodity-money relations. We must pay attention to encouraging all grass-roots economic sectors to switch to business accounting mechanisms. We must modify the state's economic management apparatuses and the management mechanisms in the trading, pricing, monetary, and banking sectors.

The above-mentioned contents clearly show that the modification of economic management mechanisms is not an easy task. It cannot be expeditiously fulfilled. However, we cannot simply allow the old mechanisms to remain in existence.

To fulfill these objectives we must hold aloft a sense of determination and tenacity, and persist in pursuing the direction outlined by the fourth party congress—to resolutely, gradually, firmly, decisively, systematically, and comprehensively execute our task; to improve and modify it incessantly; to resist any conservative thinking; and to accomplish all of the work once and for all.

All leading cadres and party members must act as models in switching to the new thinking, especially the new economic thinking, so as to change the styles of thinking, living, and working among our people, thus making them more efficient, progressive, and prosperous.

Briefs

Soviet Delegation Meeting

Vientiane, March 2 (KPL)— Delegations of Vientiane and Moscow capitals met here yesterday to discuss ways to promote and expand their cooperation and relations.

The sides exchanged views on measures to step up the relations between the party and administration authorities of Vientiane and Moscow as well as other capitals of other socialist countries, especially between Vientiane and the capitals of Vietnam, Kampuchea and the Soviet Union. [Text] *[Vientiane KPL in English 0914 GMT 3 Mar 88 BK]*

Philippines

Ambassador Cites Benefits of U.S. Aid

HK030831 Manila BUSINESS STAR in English
3 Mar 88 pp 1, 11

[By Patricia L. Adversario]

[Text] Philippine ambassador to the United States Emmanuel Pelaez yesterday said the country could get more foreign assistance from the \$1-billion a year, five-year mini-Marshall Plan than from any negotiated increase in compensation for the U.S. bases at Clark and Subic.

"Compared to what we can get from the bases, the idea of a multinational fund led by the United States would be more substantive," Pelaez told BUSINESS STAR.

Pelaez said the procedural aspect in U.S. Congress for securing increased compensation for the bases is "difficult."

"If, for example, the U.S. allots \$10 million (in total foreign aid), Israel and Egypt get 60 percent of this, right off the bat, no question about it," he said.

The U.S. also allots sizeable amounts of foreign aid to the Afghanistan resistance and to Pakistan, so that the Philippines, along with Greece, Turkey, Portugal and Spain (where the U.S. maintains overseas bases) all have to compete for the balance.

He said national interest lies now in "putting food in people's stomachs. Our primary problem is poverty. Everything else, even the insurgency problem, is secondary only to the poverty of our people."

Quoting an influential U.S. senator, Pelaez said the proposed mini Marshall Plan for the Philippines is an alternative to the "band aid" currently given to the Philippines. He also said the U.S. bases will not figure in the proposed multinational funding program which will be led by the U.S. and allies like Japan, Canada and some European countries.

Observers, however, have pointed out that the aid is linked to the U.S. bases as it would provide a "positive consideration" for the extension of the Military Bases Agreement (MBA) which will expire in 1991. The Marshall Plan was also aired in time for the MBA's review this year.

Pelaez concedes that the Marshall Plan would make the Philippines more dependent on the United States but "this (dependency) will be only up to a certain period." "Could we by ourselves solve our problems?," he asked.

Pelaez further pointed out that the involvement of other countries aside from the United States (Japan, the European Economic Community and perhaps the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) would even help the country get away from its "American father image."

"With international funding, we would be moving closer towards where we are, ASEAN and Japan, and would not then owe too much nor depend too much on the United States," he said.

Nuclear-Free Provision 'Not Self-Executory'

HK021005 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English
2 Mar 88 p 8

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul S. Manglapus yesterday said the Department of Foreign Affairs [DFA] maintains that the "nuclear-free" provision in the Constitution "is not self-executory and, therefore the need to negotiate whether or not the country should accept the presence of nuclear weapons in U.S. bases during the 1991 military bases agreement (MBA) review." [sentence as published]

While the DFA pursues this "openness" for negotiating on the acceptance of nuclear armaments, Mr. Manglapus noted that "there is still room for tightening our language" on the proposed "on-site inspection" to determine whether or not nuclear weapons are being stored in U.S. military installations.

The proposed "on-site inspection" of military facilities was adapted from the recently-concluded intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) treaty between the U.S. and Soviet Union. However, the INF treaty limits inspections to the territories of the two superpowers.

Although the Constitution (Article II, Section 8) clearly states that the country shall "adopt and pursue a policy of freedom from nuclear weapons in its territory," Mr. Manglapus, testifying before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations in a joint meeting with the national defense and security committee, said the problem lies in the clause "consistent with national interest."

He said records of deliberations in the Constitutional Commission showed that both former Commissioners Christian Monsod said Adolfo S. Azcuna, presidential legal adviser, battled for including the phrase "consistent with national interest" to "give flexibility" to Government to decide whether or not the U.S. bases should have nuclear weapons.

The proposed on-site inspection was supported by Senator Leticia Ramos-Shahani foreign relations committee chairman, and Senator Ernesto M. Maceda, defense committee chairman.

Mr. Manglapus said the Senate bills urging Government to "strictly adhere to the interpretation" of the nuclear-free provision in the Constitution which was interpreted as pursuant to national interest "does not give Government the flexibility to negotiate with the U.S. since they are so absolute in their language."

Senator Neptali A. Gonzales said the proposed on-site inspection of U.S. bases will, in effect, give Government the opportunity not to accept the U.S. position of "neither confirming nor denying" the presence of nuclear weapons in their bases and the "unhampered use of bases facilities" clause which may be "inimical to the country's interest."

In inspecting the U.S. facilities, Mr. Manglapus said Government may be able to detect nuclear weapons in land- and air-based crafts but it will have "difficulty detecting nuclear weapons in underwater facilities such as submarines since they cannot easily be detected."

Former Senator Arturo Tolentino, who also testified during the public hearing, stressed that "the Constitution itself adopts a nuclear-free provision as a provision which is consistent with national interest."

He recalled that during past negotiations with the American government in 1956, 1976, 1979, and 1983, the Philippine negotiating panel's proposal to include a provision in the MBA prohibiting nuclear weapons "was always outrightly rejected by the Americans."

"Their attitude of not accepting the proposed nuclear-free provisions in the MBA and their neither-confirm-nor-deny" position only shows that there are nuclear weapons stored in these bases," Mr. Tolentino said.

The former foreign affairs minister maintained that the constitutional provision on "freedom from nuclear weapons is self-executory which does not need any qualification," therefore the Philippines "should take a stronger position in defending the Constitution."

During the five-year MBA implementing policy review in 1983, Mr. Tolentino said, both parties agreed that "there would be consultations on the changes" in the U.S. facilities arising from either additional weapons or troops.

In effect, he added, this agreement would negate the 1979 MBA implementing policy review wherein the U.S. adopted a policy of "unhampered use of military facilities."

Mr. Tolentino suggested that the proposed nuclear-free Senate bills—SB Nos. 66, 67, 216, and 255—be consolidated to come up with a single bill to this effect.

"It was the intention of the people upon approving the Constitution to have a nuclear-free policy thus Government should take a stronger position against the bases. There are nuclear weapons in the bases since without them, the U.S. will just have to abandon them or, if not, use them as centers for rest and recreation purposes," former Sen. Tolentino quipped.

Senator Wigberto E. Taflade, a staunch supporter of the anti-bases group, said Government should not have difficulty in defining the Constitution since it was "explicitly stated" that the country adopts a policy of "freedom from nuclear weapons."

MNLF Commander Comments on Current Operations

*BK031125 Quezon City RPN 9 Television
in English 1030 GMT 3 Mar 88*

[Text] The "Newswatch" correspondent in Cagayan de Oro City today reported that Commander Solitario, a ranking MNLF official, confirmed the deployment of expeditionary forces from Tawitawi and Sulu into mainland Mindanao and the unified stand of three Moslem separatist groups against the Philippine Government.

Commander Solitario told the "Newswatch" correspondent in Cagayan de Oro that right now the regular Jolo-based MNLF army is deployed to [word indistinct] the territorial and highland forces.

Solitario admitted that MNLF had accepted moral, material, and political support from Moslem nations, but he did not confirm or deny if the MNLF had received anti-aircraft Stinger missiles.

Commander Solitario accused the government of trying to block MNLF's membership in the Organization of Islamic Countries. He said President Aquino's last chance of negotiating for a peaceful solution would be 18 March this year—the 20th anniversary of the Jabidah massacre and the MNLF's unilateral declaration of the existence of the Bangsa Moro Republic.

Islamic Body Expresses 'Support' for MNLF

*HK031027 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 3 Mar 88*

[Text] The Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] has expressed its support for the Moro National Liberation Front. The OIC's Committee on the MNLF issue made this statement after its meeting in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, which was attended by representatives from Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia and Libya. Also present at the meeting was MNLF Chairman Nur Misuari.

However, the support extends only in so far as the government has failed to implement the 1976 Tripoli Agreement. Under this agreement, signed by the previous administration, full autonomy was to be granted to 13 provinces in Mindanao for the MNLF. This could affect government efforts to block the MNLF's membership bid to the OIC.

Meanwhile, in a statement issued to "Newsline 846", MNLF Spokesman Ustadz Zain Jali said that his group has already submitted a formal application to become an OIC member.

[Begin Jali recording in English] Yesterday, the quadripartite committee, composed of Libya, Senegal, Somali and Saudi Arabia, met. So, Doctor (Amin) told me that Misuari is already in Jeddah and the quadripartite committee is already meeting with the MNLF to discuss about the application. [end recording]

That was Ustadz Zain Jali, MNLF spokesman.

Military, MNLF Encounters Expected

HK031035 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE in English 3 Mar 88 pp 1, 6

[Text] The Mindanao situation seemed to turn for the worse yesterday as both government and Muslim separatist leaders warned of the possibility of combat encounter.

Speaking to reporters after his confirmation by the Commission on Appointments, Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos said that "outbreak of violence is possible" in Mindanao.

Reports of sporadic violence in Mindanao have been received by the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] headquarters in Manila.

Last Friday, forces of the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] staged attacks in Lanao del Sur which resulted in the killing of six rebels.

Ramos also told the reporters that in case of war with the separatists, "the Armed Forces of the Philippines is ready."

Informed sources estimated that about one-third of the country's combat troops are deployed in Mindanao, a majority of which are based in the thirteen provinces included in the Tripoli Agreement.

Ramos also gave the assurance that the population in Mindanao is "informed of the situation" and added that they will support the Philippine government in a renewed war.

From the rebel side, the MNLF disclosed yesterday that its efforts are no longer directed at negotiations but preparation for war and the setting up of a separatist political structure.

"It's too late, everything is with God," said Hapi Mil Hassan, one of several MNLF vice-chairmen, referring to the move of the Aquino government to talk with member countries of the Organization of Islamic Conference.

Hassan, who is based in MNLF Sulu front, said the effort of the MNLF at present is to set up "state provisional governments" in some provinces in Mindanao.

He disclosed that the provinces where the provisional governments are being set up are Zamboanga, the two Lanaos and Sulu.

All these provinces are part of the thirteen provinces included in the 1976 Tripoli Agreement as "autonomy areas."

He also revealed that these provisional governments have judicial systems which decide on cases lodged with it by citizens.

"Muslim people come to us, instead of going to the courts run by the Philippine government," Hassan said.

He also said the MNLF has already perfected a taxation system which is supported by the people in the area.

It is most likely, he said, that the provisional governments that have been set would be formalized in March 18 this year, the anniversary of the MNLF's founding.

Islamic Body 'Must Consider' Retaliation

HK021037 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 2 Mar 88 p 8

[Text] Even as members of the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) still have to decide whether or not to officially accept into its fold the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), they must also consider possible retaliatory measures from the Philippine Government.

The MNLF boasts that it has virtually been accepted by the OIC, on the strength of promises made by 35 of 48 leaders of member nations.

Although Philippine chiefs of mission to these countries claim they consider this a very remote possibility, Government has escalated moves to get assurances from the Islamic leaders of the rejection of the MNLF petition.

Recently, a delegation headed by Speaker Ramon Mitra went to Saudi Arabia to make representation on behalf of Government. While the "success" of his mission was contested by MNLF drum-beaters, the DFA [Department of Foreign Affairs] official circle started to consider its options.

One official, who requested anonymity, charted a "likely" course for Government in the event that the MNLF wins the OIC tug-of-war.

Government, he said, will definitely consider a member nation's positive recommendation on the MNLF bid as "an unfriendly act." It will write formal letters of protest to the embassies here.

The next step, he said, would be government to pull out its embassies from the "hostile" countries. This, he noted, would have many repercussions.

"The cessation of Philippine embassy operation in the Middle East, for example, may lead to the exodus of some 280,000 Filipinos contract workers.

"The Middle East relies heavily on Filipino skilled labor. If our embassies pull out from their countries, the Filipinos will leave and go elsewhere because they will not feel safe. Who will protect their rights?" he pointed out.

Another effect could be the cessation of bilateral trade. Middle Eastern countries do not import Philippine products to a very significant extent, the official conceded, but they would not want to lose Philippine patronage of their oil.

"They no longer have a monopoly on oil. It will be easy for us to import our oil requirements from Asian and South American countries," he said.

NPA Said Supported by Foreign Communists
HK030829 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 3 Mar 88 p 7

[Text] Local rebels are receiving moral and other "support" from communist parties abroad, including the Soviet Union, Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos said yesterday.

He also disclosed a shift in rebel strategies even as Camp Crame reported that at least 13 people, including eight insurgents, were killed in two days of heavy fighting in a remote Cagayan village.

According to Ramos, there were no official reports that the Soviet Union was giving financial and material support to the rebels.

But military intelligence sources said it was possible that Soviet officials were using third parties in sending aid to the insurgents.

Ramos briefed reporters after attending a regular meeting with top defense officials in Camp Aguinaldo.

He said there was a major shift in the rebel strategy. For instance, he said, "they (rebels) are going to the urban centers, they're moving into populated areas where there are easy Government targets."

The rebels, he added, were also moving in and strengthening their forces from Mindanao to Eastern Visayas, Bicol and Cagayan Valley.

Ramos gave two reasons for the shift in rebel strategies. First, he said, military operations in the countryside have forced the rebels to move to the big towns and cities where there is better life support system."

Second, the rebels are slowly losing popular support in the countryside as indicated by the proliferation of vigilante groups in Mindanao and some parts in the Visayas, according to Ramos.

Based on captured documents and analysis by defense and military experts, Ramos said the guerrillas are also now strengthening their forces in Eastern Visayas, Bicol and Cagayan valley where the rugged terrain makes it difficult for the military to operate.

He said rebel setbacks in Mindanao forced them to concentrate in Eastern Visayas which has "vast" industrial and agricultural industries.

The rebels are planning to make Samar provinces and the Cagayan Valley a "laboratory" for mounting massive attacks, Ramos added.

He said classified rebel documents indicated the guerrillas were planning a bold three-year plan to reach the strategic defensive stalemate phase in its revolution.

However, this plan was thwarted with the capture of ranking communist leaders from Central and Western Visayas, he said.

Ramos assured that despite these changes, the military is on top of the situation. The Armed Forces is ready to face threats from all fronts—the communists, the separatists, and the right-wing groups, he said.

He also cited military records indicating that the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] can still manage to hold on and defeat the guerrillas.

Based on graphs shown to reporters, Ramos said the average number of violent incidents had gone down to as low as 7.14 daily from a high average of 12 daily last January.

The level of fatalities remained at an average of 10.44 persons daily. In 1985, the average was 13.09 persons, then plummeted to 8.76 persons in 1986, mainly due to the "People's Power Revolution" euphoria and the 60-day ceasefire between the Government and the insurgents, Ramos said.

Meanwhile, five government soldiers and eight guerrillas were killed in a two-day fighting in Sitio Bugaw, Barangay Pullagaw, in Bagao, Cagayan Monday.

Camp Crame said the gunbattle was triggered by an ambush of a military convoy which was returning to a camp after a combat mission near the area.

Three soldiers—Sgt. Marlon Evasco, C1C [Constable 1st Class] Felix Maramag, and C1C Perfecto Padua—and two unidentified militiamen were killed in the ambush.

In the ensuing firefight, eight rebels were killed while six other soldiers and militiamen were wounded. Four other soldiers were reported missing and feared dead, according to Camp Crame.

NPA Reported Shifting Fight to North

*HK030219 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company
in English 2300 GMT 2 Mar 88*

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos says the New People's Army is shifting its insurgency war from Mindanao, Samar and Bicol to Central Luzon. Ramos said military analysts have now established the pattern set by the NPA which is carrying the war up to Luzon where vital government installations and industries are located. He noted that from the southern Philippines, the NPA has shifted the war to strategically located Samar Island near the Bicol provinces. From there the NPA has moved to Central Luzon where a number of military installations, including Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base and vital industries, are located. It is also adjacent to Manila, the seat of government. Ramos also said the NPA lately has stepped up its urban terrorism in Metro Manila.

Sison Gives Figures for CPP, NPA Membership

*HK021027 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE
in English 2 Mar 88 p 2*

[Staff writer Julius F. Fortuna]

[Text] From an initial 30, the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] has now reached a total membership of 35,000 candidate and full members, according to Jose Ma Sison, a paramount Marxist leader in the country. He also said that the New People's Army has grown to about 30,000.

"The Communist Party of the Philippines has some 35,000 members distributed all over the country and deeply rooted among the toiling masses in urban and rural areas," Sison wrote in a monograph "Problems of Transition in the Philippines."

Sison also disclosed that the Party members "are assisted by hundreds of thousands of revolutionary mass activists in leading more than 11 million people."

The prominent Marxist theoretician, one of several political detainees released upon the ascendancy of the Aquino government, said that the "revolutionary movement has outlasted and prevailed against the Marcos regime...it is easier for it to outlast and prevail against the U.S. Aquino regime".

Sison disclosed that the NPA now operates "in more than 60 guerrilla fronts, consisting of guerrilla base areas and guerrilla zones."

He added that the NPA has "operative presence" in 65 of 73 provinces, or more than 800 out of 1,540 municipalities, or more than 12,000 villages.

Clarifying the exact force and deployment of the rebel army, Sison, who led the CPP from 1968 up to his arrest in 1977, disclosed that the NPA now has 30,000 full-time and part-time guerrilla fighters with 16,000 firearms.

Of the 16,000 firearms, he said, about 10,000 are automatic rifles.

According to Sison, the NPA has recruited into its ranks a support group consisting of hundreds of thousands of militia personnel. This militia carry no firearms but are helping the NPA in surveillance, communications, transport, food production and in other tasks.

Sison also said that of the 11 million-strong party mass base, 7.5 million are in the countryside while 3.5 are in the cities.

He said this mass base is supervised and nourished politically by layers of "mass organizations" of workers, farmers, women, youth, and cultural activists.

Sison, author of "Specific Characteristics of People's War" which is regarded by other Asian parties as a major contribution to guerrilla war theory, also said that parity with AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] forces is forthcoming.

"The strategic defensive is already maturing and is in the advanced phase," he wrote.

Ramos Discloses 'Four-Pronged Strategy'
HK030941 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos today stressed the importance of cooperation between the local government and the military for the successful implementation of the campaign against the communist rebels. Here is Jonathan Cristobal from the Department of National Defense, reporting from Camp Aguinaldo:

[Begin recording] Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos stressed the importance of cooperation between the local government and the military for the successful campaign against the CCP [Communist Party of the Philippines]-NPA. Ramos made the statement in an interview with newsmen at Camp Aguinaldo a few hours after the Commission on Appointments confirmed his nomination as defense chief. Ramos disclosed four measures that will be implemented simultaneously by the government against the insurgency. The four-pronged strategy consists of clearing, holding, consolidating, and developing operations. These activities will be implemented by the military, together with the local government, other government agencies, and the concerned private sector. Ramos explained that the clearing operations will include military takeovers of rebel-infested areas or barangays. This will be followed by holding operations, that is, the implementation by civilian agencies of programs necessary for the stabilization of the situation in the area. Consolidation operations refer to the strengthening of the government's position in the area of operation, with the help of civilian agencies. Finally, development operations are designed for the development of the area or barangay. Let us listen to Fidel V. Ramos' statement. [end recording]

[Begin Ramos recording in English] The actions should be simultaneous, because if you visualize the liberation of a barangay that is affected by the insurgency, there are four kinds of actions that are involved. First, there must be a clearing operation, and this must be done by the military, or maybe the military and the police together. After that area has been cleared of the arch enemy, maybe there should be holding operation, to wait for the other agencies and the other components, especially the civilian agencies to catch up. And then after that, consolidation, meaning you strengthen your position by bringing in more (handy) forces, mainly civilians. And then lastly, development. So, the military should take care of the clearing operation. The holding operation cannot be done by the military indefinitely. But the territorial forces must be assigned that mission. Then, your consolidation now will be the combination of your territorial forces and your infrastructure program, your reconciliation program, your economic program, your livelihood program. And then the development will already result from all of these. I must emphasize that the military cannot be in the hold in the consolidate operation indefinitely because there are not enough of us in the military. [end recording]

Ramos is expected to hold a meeting at the Philippine International Convention Center with 1,500 newly elected governors and mayors of cities and provinces in order to discuss the national security situation.

Defense Secretary Ramos Vows To Unify Military
OW030019 Tokyo KYODO in English 0002 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Manila, March 3 KYODO—Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos has vowed to unify the Philippine military and promote more funds to bolster its combat effectiveness in fighting communist insurgents.

"My primary objective during this first few months of my tenure in the Defense Department is to strengthen the unity and stability of our fighting forces," Ramos told a news conference Wednesday in his office at suburban Camp Aguinaldo.

Ramos, former chief of staff of the Armed Forces, said he would build a strong military, which is "needed during this very critical time," by requesting budgetary support for military programs.

Ramos said he will "exert maximum efforts" in strengthening the unity and team work of the military.

Ramos has successfully quelled all coup bids by right-wing military rebels intending to oust President Corazon Aquino and played a pivotal role in installing Aquino to the presidency during the People Power revolt in February 1986.

Thailand

Lao Delegation Arrives for Border Talks
BK030635 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai
0530 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] A Lao political delegation led by Brigadier General Thonglai Kommasit, deputy chief of the General Political Department of the LPA, arrived in Thailand this morning to conduct political negotiations to resolve the border dispute at Ban Romklao in Chat Trakan District of Phitsanulok Province, and to restore strong, fraternal Thai-Lao relations. Khanit Chindawan, a Public Relations Department correspondent reports:

[Begin recording] At 0930 a Thai delegation led by M.R. Kasemsamson Kasemsi, permanent secretary for foreign affairs, and other officials arrived at the VIP reception room at Don Muang Airport to receive the Lao delegation. Kasemsamson told waiting correspondents that the borderline will be the major issue of the negotiations and that the atmosphere during talks should be permeated with the spirit of fraternity following the cease-fire. In any event, he said Thailand continues to uphold what is right in accordance with international law and the existing Siamese-French treaty. The bilateral

issues—the border and cooperation—will also be discussed. Asked what will the process be once negotiations proceed successfully, Kasemsamson said a signing at the foreign minister level will take place, probably in Vientiane.

At 1010 the official Lao Government delegation arrived from Laos. It is led by Brig Gen Thonglai and four members as well as a team of Lao correspondents. In the VIP room, the heads of the two delegations shook hands, and each member of the Lao delegation was given a lei by the head of the Thai delegation. After exchanging pleasantries in a brotherly atmosphere, the delegations left for the Thai Foreign Ministry at about 1020 to begin official negotiations. [end recording]

Army Ready To Face Inquiry on Lao Conflict
BK030119 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
3 Mar 88 p 3

[Text] Army Secretary Maj-Gen Narudon Detpradiyut yesterday said the Army is prepared to face an inquiry into the Ban Romklao border conflict if the Parliament insists.

Maj-Gen Narudon made the remark in defence of Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila who was accused by opposition parties of being short of ideas in ending the Thai-Lao border war peacefully.

In his defence of the Foreign Minister, Maj-Gen Narudon said the Armed Forces had been in close coordination with the Foreign Ministry which must be fully credited for its diplomacy in bringing about the negotiations.

He said that military operations at Romklao were conducted under strict orders from the Government.

"The Armed Forces did everything what the Government had instructed them to do," he said.

He said the Government appointed Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut as head of the negotiation team because Laos had first appointed its military leader to head its high-level delegation.

"The Armed Forces did not deliberately act alone in appointing the army chief but followed government orders," Maj-Gen Narudon said.

Concerning the troop pullout, he said a total pullback would begin as soon as the two sides reach a sound political settlement on the dispute.

At this stage it could only be termed as a ceasefire and separation of troops from the line of contact, he added.

Column Says Lao Talks 'Denigrate' Ministry
BK030231 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
3 Mar 88 p 8

["Have You Heard" column by "Chingchok": "Behind the Embracing and Ceremonies And Dances..."]

[Text] With the Laotian delegation arriving today for the negotiations, the chingchok [house lizard—referring to newsmen] council, being Thai and much concerned with Thai territorial integrity, has to reveal what its spies, who followed the B.J. [Army Commander in Chief Chawalit Yongchaiyut] delegation to Vientiane, and their cousins across the Mekong River have found out.

In the talks between the Thai and Laotian military leaders following the Romklao "cease-fire," the Laotians have made certain demands which the chingchok council feels would make the task of the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the political discussions most difficult.

The demands which the Thai chingchoks, with the cooperation of their Laotian cousins who believe in maintaining the fraternal relations between the peoples of the two countries, have discovered must now be disclosed to expose the Vientiane rulers' true attitude and cunning strategy.

Behind all the embracing of the military leaders, the release of doves provided by the Laotian army commander, the ceremonies and the dances, the Laotian military leadership has demanded the following:

1. The Thai-Laotian military "cease-fire" team is to continue its functions beyond the 15-day postcease-fire period—originally set for its existence in order to let the political negotiators take over. In the council's opinion, this is obviously meant to make certain that the military team monitors the political negotiations—which in turn means that the Laotians have greater confidence in B.J. than in ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi Sawetsila to achieve their objectives.

2. The six-kilometre wide stretch of land from whose centre the conflicting forces separated in the "cease-fire" is to be maintained as a factual "no man's land." This means that Thailand has to give up around five kilometres of its own territory to be "no man's land" since the three-kilometre withdrawal of the Thai forces took them five kilometres away from the border.

3. Thailand has to pay for damage allegedly caused to the people of Boten in Sayaboury province. The council feels that if Thailand accedes to this demand, it is as if Thailand has lost the battle—and has to pay reparations.

The Thai military delegation accepted the demands for consideration in the political negotiations. The council is much concerned since the demands are designed to convey the false impression that Laos had defeated Thailand.

The council wishes to bring Thai public attention to these views:

1. The continued functioning of the Thai-Lao military team 15 days after the "cease-fire" violates the agreement reached between the Thai and Laotian military on February 17 in Bangkok. The Laotians apparently want to override the Thai Foreign Ministry, attempting to denigrate its significance and importance in the eyes of the Thai people, the Laotian people and of the world. They also evidently hope to isolate the Ministry which they expect to be tough and not too accommodating in the negotiations over Thai territory.

If our own military leadership agrees to this demand, it can only lead to greater and more serious division between the military and the Foreign Ministry.

Any agreement to the Laotian demand about making a large portion of Thailand "no man's land" will adversely affect Thai territorial integrity. The council wonders how it is possible for the Laotians to designate part of our soil as land where our own forces cannot enter. We feel strongly that acceptance of this demand will be an unpardonable violation of the Constitution.

2. No matter how the payment of damages, if agreed upon, is dressed up—such as "aid to the Laotian people affected by the battle"—the only conclusion people anywhere could reach is that Thailand is paying the "victors."

The council is convinced that the Thai military team should terminate its role after the "cease-fire" and let the Foreign Ministry defend Thai territory diplomatically.

Vietnamese Forces 'Beefed Up' Near Border

*BK030442 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia
in English 1500 GMT 2 Feb 88*

[Text] Vietnamese troops stationed in Ampil, the former base of Khmer People's National Liberation Front under Son Sann, have beefed up their forces with heavy artillery and tanks, military sources said yesterday. The source said the Vietnamese who overtook the base in January 1985, have brought in tanks, 105-mm, 120-mm, and 130-mm artillery pieces, and armored personnel carriers since 1 February. Vietnamese troops have also increased patrols in the Ampil area, located about 10 km north of Prachin Buri.

Burmese Border Security Forces Tightened

*BK030055 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
3 Mar 88 pp 1, 3*

[By Ratchphon Laowanit]

[Excerpt] Chiang Dao, Chiang Mai—Thai and Burmese armed forces have tightened security here to protect a log hauling route opened between the two countries to allow Thai merchants to import 30,000 [metric] tons of Burmese teak wood.

The Thai and Burmese governments have agreed to open a Customs checkpoint here for the first time in 40 years to facilitate the cross-border timber trade.

The commander of Task Force 327, Col Paeng Malakul na Ayutthaya, who is in charge of this Thai-Burmese border front, said Rangoon had sent in at least 200 soldiers to help protect the route on their side of the border.

Thailand, meanwhile, will ensure safe passage for traders by using members of the task force and armed civilian volunteers.

The units will coordinate with a nearby ranger force, and reinforcements can be swiftly despatched in case of emergency, Col Paeng said.

The tightened security was approved by both sides to prevent trouble on the log hauling route, which has long been under the influence of drug kingpin Khun Sa's Shan United Army, Wa hilltribesmen on the Burmese side and elements of the former Nationalist Chinese Kuomintang (KMT) army on the Thai side.

Rangoon has only recently secured the jungle area leading to the Thai-Burmese border adjoining Chiang Dao District and sent about 30 soldiers to protect the pass.

The first lot of Burmese wood—nearly 9,000 tons—is presently piled up in the Burmese villages of Puangpahk-yem, Honghang and Hoe-Hto along the hauling route.

At least six Thai merchants have travelled across the border to inspect the logs to estimate their value.

So far 17 Thai timber merchants have been approved to bid for the timber on March 11 at the Burmese Embassy in Bangkok.

The bidding results are scheduled to be announced on March 15, and the contract winner will have from between March 30 and May 15 to haul all the logs out of Burmese territory. [passage omitted]

Malaysian Trawlers Intercepted; 7 Arrested

*BK030125 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
3 Mar 88 p 4*

[Text] Satun—Marine Police yesterday intercepted two Malaysian fishing trawlers and arrested seven crewmen for violating the country's territorial waters.

Police said the trawlers, each about 26 metres in length, had intruded four nautical miles into Thai waters.

The two vessels and their crew were intercepted while fishing near Ko Sarai off the Satun coast, police said.

They said the Malaysian boats were intercepted by three Marine Police patrol boats sent to the area following reports of increasing violations by Malaysian fishing vessels.

Police have launched a crackdown against intruding fishing boats and vessels holding dual-nationality registration licences.

Five trawlers holding both Thai and Malaysian licences and 17 crewmen, all Malaysians, have been arrested over the past month.

Sources said Deputy Interior Minister Sawai Phatthano is scheduled to visit this border province to look into the problem of fishing trawlers carrying dual licences.

Tension Eases as Muslim Dress Ban Relaxed
BK030135 Bangkok THE NATION in English
3 Mar 88 pp 1, 2

[Excerpt] Tension has subsided in the South after authorities and Muslim protesters agreed yesterday to form a joint committee to consider amending a rule that bans Islamic dress in classrooms.

In Yala, about 3,000 Thai Muslims, many of whom have rallied nightly after praying at a mosque in Muang district, dispersed at about 2 am yesterday after the agreement was reached between their representatives and a three-man team from the Education Ministry.

"The conflict is nearly over," said Yala Governor Niwat Phibun.

The committee should come up with a recommendation before the beginning of the next academic year in May, Narong Nunthong, a member of the ministry's team and secretary to Education Minister Marut Bunnak told THE NATION in a phone interview.

In the meantime, Muslim students at the Yala Teachers' Training College—the centre of the controversy—will be allowed to attend classes in their traditional clothes until the summer courses end.

Some radical Muslims viewed the dress ban as evidence that the Buddhist-dominated Thai government was discriminating against Muslims. But most observers—citing the small number of students, about 10, challenging the rule—felt the issue was only a minor problem and that it should not have been exaggerated. [passage omitted]

Minister Denies Increase in Foreign Loan Limit
BK030415 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
3 Mar 88 p 30

[Text] Finance minister Dr Suthi Singsane said yesterday that the ministry has no plans of increasing the foreign loan borrowing limit from the present \$1,000 million per year as the country does not face any savings gap problem.

Dr Suthi's comment was made in response to a remark by Flt Lt [Flight Lieutenant] Suli Mahasanthana [minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office] claiming that the foreign loan borrowing limit is an obstacle to foreign investment in energy exploration.

Flt Lt Suli said that he will ask the Government to consider increasing the limit so as to encourage expansion of the foreign investment to exploring new sources of energy in the country.

Dr Suthi said that foreign loan borrowing limit at \$1,000 million has created a positive effect on the country's economy by putting Thailand in a better fiscal and monetary position while not causing any adverse effect on the country's foreign investment. He said that since the limit was put into use, the actual borrowing each year has never reached the limit.

The country's international reserves are currently at \$5,000 million, which is considered very high, he said, meaning Thailand did not have to borrow more from overseas to prop up its reserve.

In addition, he said that there has been an increase in the flow of foreign savings entering the country in the form of international unit trusts from investors interested in investing in the Thai stock market.

"There is an oversupply of foreign funds to the extent that the investment projects are not sufficient to accommodate the increased flow of such funds."

He said the major change in the country's borrowing is that state enterprises now rely more on domestic sources to fund projects, which means there is no need for the Government to boost the ceiling.

Vietnam

NHAN DAN Criticizes Shultz Mideast Diplomacy
BK030738 Hanoi VNA in English 0710 GMT
3 Mar 88

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 3—NHAN DAN today notes that like his assistant R. Murphy, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz failed in his recent "diplomatic shuttle" trip to the Middle East.

The paper says:

"Leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) firmly rejected a meeting between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and PLO representative in Eastern Jerusalem. For its part, Jordan refused a partial solution suggested by the U.S. and made it clear that the Jordanian Government advocates the convocation of an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of the parties concerned, including the PLO.

"In his meeting with Shultz, the Syrian foreign minister stressed that an international peace conference on the Middle East is the only way to achieve a solution to the Middle East issue."

"All these reactions have been triggered off by the fact that the plan which Washington has so much advertised is aimed at revising the spirit of the "Camp David" treaty of continuing to draw Arab countries into a direct negotiation with Israel."

The paper goes on:

"Reality in the Middle East has more and more clearly pointed to the road to peace in the region: Israel must withdraw all its troops from those Arab territories it is illegally occupying; an independent Palestinian state must be established and an international conference on the Middle East be convened with the participation of all concerned parties including the PLO, any solution that does not include those fundamental issues will not help to bring about a lasting and stable peace to the Middle East and will fail."

Sihanouk Statement on Hun Sen Talks Reported

*BK031116 Hanoi International Service
in English 1000 GMT 3 Mar 88*

[Text] Prince Norodom Sihanouk said he will remain temporarily in his post as president of the so-called Democratic Kampuchea.

Explaining his change of mind, Sihanouk wrote the French news agency AFP on 29 February saying that was because he will meet Mr Hun Sen in Fer-en-Tardenois, France, for the third round of talks expected to be held in November or December this year.

Journalists Condemn PRC Actions in Spratlys

*BK021556 Hanoi VNA in English 1532 GMT
2 Mar 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 2—The Vietnamese journalists vehemently condemn the Chinese authorities for sending their Armed Forces to violate the Vietnamese sovereignty and territorial integrity in the Truong Sa [Spratly] Archipelago, particularly to conduct illegal operations in the Chu Thap and Chau Vien coral reefs. This comes in a statement issued in a meeting here today of more than 200 mass media workers.

"China's aggression of Hoang Sa [Paracel] Archipelago in 1974 and the on-going encroachments of Truong Sa have revealed its attempt to violate Vietnam's territorial integrity and sovereignty, thus posing a serious threat to Vietnam and other nations bordering the Eastern Sea, and causing tension and instability in Southeast Asia. These acts are part of the Chinese authorities' long-time ambition of aggression of Vietnam and expansion to the Eastern Sea," the statement says.

It continues: "The Vietnamese journalists fully support the Feb. 20 statement of a spokesman for Vietnam's Foreign Ministry, strongly demanding China immediately withdraw its Armed Forces and warships from Truong Sa Archipelago and stop all violations of Vietnam's sovereignty and territorial waters."

The statement concludes by appealing to mass media circles in Southeast Asia, the Asia-Pacific region, and all progressive journalists the world over, to raise their voice against China's scheme and acts of expansion which have run counter to the worldwide trend for detente.

Industrial Cooperation With USSR Reported

*BK030748 Hanoi VNA in English 0720 GMT
3 Mar 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 3—The Union of Shipbuilding Enterprises under the Ministry of Communications and Transport this year begins implementing a program for cooperation with the Soviet Union on building and repairing ships.

It is expanding investments at the Bach Dang and Ha Long shipyards, and sent workers for practice training in the Soviet Union and Bulgaria. Under the program, 15 ships will be built for the Soviet Union in the 1988-90 period starting from the third quarter of this year.

The union has signed new contracts with Bulgaria for ship building and is importing materials and equipment from Poland to upgrade the Ha Long shipbuilding yard to enable it to build 3,000-ton ships;

The central province of Quang Nam-Danang has commissioned a factory producing leather and shoes for export. As an initial step, the factory will manufacture one million pairs of shoe-uppers a year for the Soviet Union.

The Tho Hoa textile mill in Quang Nam-Danang Province in the first month of this year produced 172 tons of yarn and nearly 700,000 metres of cloth, achieving 35-36 percent of its first-quarter plan.

Laos Cultural Cooperation Protocol Signed
*BK040239 Hanoi VNA in English 1520 GMT
2 Mar 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 2—A protocol on cultural cooperation for 1988 between Vietnam and Laos was signed in Vientiane on Monday by Vietnamese Vice Minister of Culture Vu Khac Lien and his Lao counterpart, Somsri Desakamphou.

The signing was made during a week-long visit to Laos by a delegation of the Vietnamese Ministry of Culture led by Vu Khac Lien.

According to the protocol, Vietnam will help Laos in personnel training, and receive Lao cadres on study tours. It also sends experts to help Laos in compiling curriculums for cultural courses, producing musical instruments and repairing machinery.

While there, the Vietnamese delegation had working sessions with a Lao delegation to review the implementation of the 1987 bilateral cooperation plan and discuss measures for promoting their cooperation this year.

Le Duc Anh Greets GDR Defense Minister
*BK021600 Hanoi VNA in English 1540 GMT
2 Mar 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 2—General Le Duc Anh, minister of national defence, has sent a message of greetings to his GDR counterpart, General Heinz Kessler, on the 32nd anniversary of the National People's Army of the German Democratic Republic (March 1).

Also on this event, a meeting was held at the headquarters of the command of the artillery service. The meeting was attended by, among others, GDR charge d'affaires Horst Jany and military attache Colonel Horst Kerzig.

On March 1, Colonel Horst Kerzig gave a reception at the GDR Embassy here in the presence of Senior Lieutenant-General Bui Phung, deputy minister of national defence.

Briefs

Conference on Health Care

Hanoi VNA March 1—The Council of Ministers opened here this morning an enlarged conference to discuss primary health care for everyone. The conference was attended by representatives of WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA [United Nations Fund for Population Activities], and SIDA [expansion unknown]. Also present were representatives of various commissions of the CPV Central Committee, the State Committee for Science and Technology, the Social Sciences Committee, and the branches of public health, culture and information, education,

labor and social welfare, industry, and trade. The participants heard speeches delivered by Hiroshi Nakajima, director of the Western Pacific Office of WHO, and Steven Allen, acting representative of UNICEF in Hanoi, on international assistance to Vietnam in achieving the objective of primary health care for everyone from now until the year 2,000. Speaking about the results of primary health care in Vietnam in recent years, the minister of public health, Dr Dang Hoi Xuan, said that with the help of international organizations, the Vietnamese public health service has achieved initial results in carrying out 10 programs of primary health care throughout the country. [Excerpts] *[Hanoi VNA in English 1510 GMT 1 Mar 88 BK]*

WHO Regional Director Visits

Hanoi VNA March 3—Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, director of the Western Pacific Office of the World Health Organisation (WHO) paid a working visit to Vietnam from Feb. 25 to March 2. Dr. Nakajima called at several public health facilities in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, and attended a seminar on primary healthcare, the ceremony to accredit the Central Institute of Traditional Medicine as a WHO collaborating centre for traditional medicine, and the inauguration of the Centre for Research of Quality of Training Medical Workers in Hanoi. Dr. Dang Hoi Xuan, minister of public health, held talks with Dr. Nakajima. The two sides valued highly the cooperation between Vietnam and WHO in recent years, and affirmed to further their effective cooperation in the coming years in service of the Vietnamese people's health. [Text] *[Hanoi VNA in English 0704 GMT 3 Mar 88 BK]*

Cultural Group Meets

Hanoi VNA March 1—The Multilateral Coordinating Commission for Cultural, Literary, and Art Research of the socialist countries opened a regular session here on Monday. Attending the three-day meeting, chaired by Prof. Klaus James, president of the commission, are delegations from Vietnam, the German Democratic Republic, the Soviet Union, Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary, Mongolia, Romania, and Czechoslovakia. Tran Do, head of the Commission for Culture and Arts of the Communist Party of Vietnam's Central Committee, made the welcome speech. The session then heard and discussed the main report dealing with the "improvement and raising the efficiency of the commission's work." [Text] *[Hanoi VNA in English 1459 GMT 1 Mar 88 BK]*

Cultural Meeting Closes

Hanoi VNA March 2—The multilateral Coordinating Commission for Cultural, Literary and Art Research of the Socialist Countries closed a three-day regular meeting here today. The closing session was addressed by Dao Duy Tung, alternate Politburo member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee. During their

stay in Hanoi, the foreign delegations, which included the German Democratic Republic, the Soviet Union, Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary, Mongolia, Romania and Czechoslovakia, paid tribute to President Ho Chi Minh

at his mausoleum and visited his house and office. They also toured a number of cultural establishments and attended various traditional art shows in Hanoi. [Text]
[Hanoi VNA in English 1529 GMT 2 Mar 88 BK]

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